

MOUTH OF THE RIVER

Informing and Entertaining since 1963

POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN OYSTER RIVER

McCain

Obama

Palin

Biden

December 9th, 2008

NEWS

New Hampshire Sex Offenders...3

Oyster River Goes Democratic...4

Students for a Democratic Society?...6

Homework: A Waste of Time?...7

FEATURES:

Don't Be Hatin'...10

Student and Staff of the Issue...12

Ask Max...13

Mrs.Kishbaugh's Room?...17

OP-ED

Why I Hate Technology...20

Got Milk?...26

You Just Violated Cardinal Sin #1...30

Brawl V.2: Roe vs. Wade Revisted...33

SPORTS

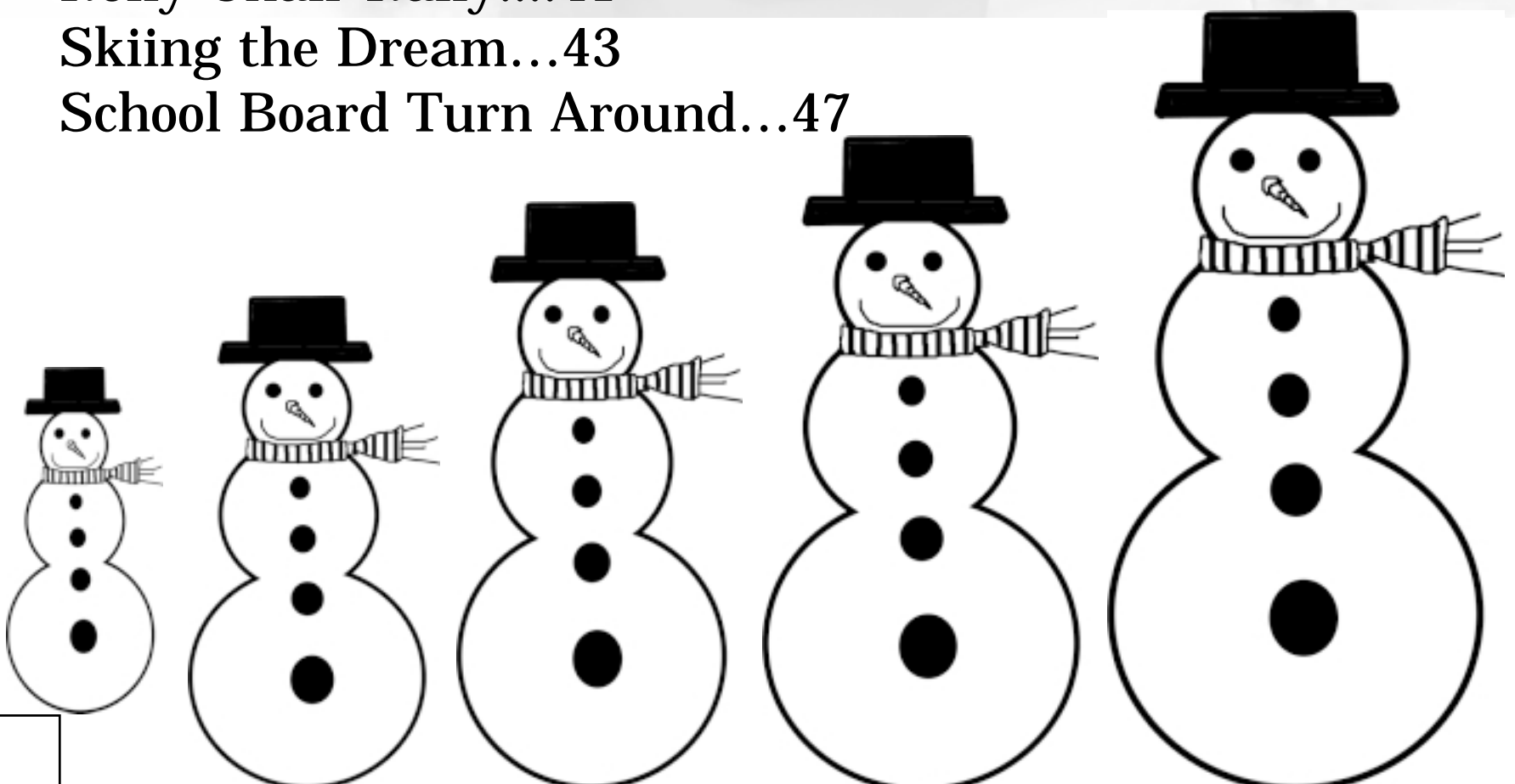
Exotic Sports...37

Rolly Chair Rally!...41

Skiing the Dream...43

School Board Turn Around...47

Calvin and Wilson Kucera



NH SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION TO BE REFORMED

According to the State of New Hampshire, there are currently 9 sex offenders living in the Oyster River School District. A closer look at their crimes reveals that the sweeping sex offender registration requirements are relatively undiscerning. All that is known is that of these 9 offenses, 4 involve children, 2 involve an age difference, 2 involve pornography, and 1 involves indecent exposure. Despite the vague information and disparity in severity of their crimes, all these people are on same list, causing indiscriminating ostracism in the community.

In order to resolve this issue, New Hampshire passed House Bill 1640, which takes effect on January 1st. This bill "creates a tier system for classification of sexual offenders and offenders against children and revises the type of information which must be collected, the duration of registration, the verification of sex offender registry information, public access to such information, and penalties for failure to register." This means that offenders will be classified on three levels of severity, and that the registration will reflect all personal history and specifics of their crimes, allowing people to discern who are and are not potential dangers to the public.

The various crimes that require registration have long drawn controversy. In Oyster River High School this occasionally draws attention through the crime of 'statutory rape' which applies to any physical relationship involving an age difference of over 3 years, or the age difference between a senior and a freshman. "That's stupid if it's the younger person's choice," said Sophomore Georgia Borner. In most cases statutory rape is a felony, which can result in jail time and lifetime status as a sex offender. "There's definitely a difference...I think of a sex offender as someone who does something to someone else without them wanting it, not as a high school relationship," commented Senior Bryce Harding.

A former student who had an illegal relationship when he was 17

explained, "The government does what it can to ensure the safety of American citizens, but I think that there are some situations where people should not have to register...People don't think of different "levels" of sex offense. If someone is a registered sex offender, they are all looked at the same, whether it is for what I did, or an actual older fellow." Classification for consensual sex among juveniles has drawn national controversy. In the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, attorney Sarah Geraghty stated, "A teenager shouldn't be punished in perpetuity, especially one who poses no threat to society."

The law mandates that all the detailed personal information be public, their pictures, histories, and contact information all available to the community. According to a spokesman for the NH State Police, this is usually for the rest of their lives regardless of the severity of their crime. Their registration has the potential to ostracize them from their neighbors and brand them with unjustified suspicion. An anonymous ORHS student commented, "We kick soccer balls in their yards, and then we tell kids who don't know who they are to go get them."

Some sex offenders however can benefit from an indiscriminating system. Since crimes from all levels of severity are currently grouped together, those guilty of greater crimes such as aggravated assault benefit from a moderating classification.

Regardless of the system employed, most students agree that sex offender registration is necessary despite its flaws, and not simply 'fear mongering'. Harding stated, "We have the right to know if our next door neighbor is a sex offender...It's a good thing to know."



Michael Noronha

In-State Tuition at State Universities in 2004, adjusted for inflation. Variation may occur in actual figures.

District of Columbia	\$2,412
Nevada	\$2,886
Florida	\$3,067
Wyoming	\$3,170
Utah	\$3,701
Hawaii	\$3,899
Georgia	\$3,952
New Mexico	\$3,955
Oklahoma	\$4,086
Colorado	\$4,098
Louisiana	\$4,108
North Carolina	\$4,151
West Virginia	\$4,161
Idaho	\$4,181
Alaska	\$4,406
Mississippi	\$4,644
Arizona	\$4,749
Kansas	\$4,871
Tennessee	\$4,961
Arkansas	\$5,006
California	\$5,036
Alabama	\$5,099
Texas	\$5,153
Kentucky	\$5,245
Montana	\$5,255
North Dakota	\$5,300
Nebraska	\$5,451
South Dakota	\$5,499
New York	\$5,734
Washington	\$5,739
Oregon	\$6,001
Wisconsin	\$6,163
Iowa	\$6,299
Virginia	\$6,473
Maine	\$6,483
Indiana	\$6,601
Missouri	\$6,795
Rhode Island	\$6,834
Michigan	\$7,210
Connecticut	\$7,439
Minnesota	\$7,547
Illinois	\$7,569
Maryland	\$7,725
Delaware	\$7,772
South Carolina	\$7,863
Massachusetts	\$8,167
New Jersey	\$9,307
Ohio	\$9,368
New Hampshire	\$9,430
Pennsylvania	\$9,724
Vermont	\$10,218

Source data courtesy of National Center for Education Statistics



Michael Noronha

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

It's common knowledge that college is expensive. A high end school can cost over \$40,000 a year with living expenses, and even the cheapest educations usually run close to five figures a year. So how do people do it? Here are some ways that people are paying for college.

1. Go In State- Going to a New Hampshire school will save you a lot of money, but don't be tricked by the sticker prices. Once you pay for books, room and board, fees, health insurance, and courses, you will often be looking at double the cost. University of New Hampshire student Kristen Harkley said that her parents pay about \$20,000 a year with all costs, well above the advertised tuition of \$9,420. (unh.edu) "It's one of the most expensive public schools in the United States," commented UNH student Patrick Goulet. We're incredibly overcharged...look at all these brand new dorms going up." Goulet is right, in that UNH is the third most expensive state university in the United States. But although \$20,000 may sound expensive, it is a break from private schools, and offers a wide variety of courses. Other more affordable NH colleges are Keene State (\$16,600) and Hesser College (\$18,900).

UNH is the third most expensive state university in the United States.

2. Take a Loan- A college loan will get you through college, but at no small price. Goulet said that he is on a partial scholarship, and pays \$8,000 a semester by taking a fixed rate loan at 8% interest. "It's going to take me at least 5 years to repay my loans," says Goulet. For those attending more expensive schools, 5 years is a fairly conservative time period for repayment, even with a starting salary of \$40,000 to \$50,000. Fixed interest rates depend on credit, but usually start around 6%.

3. Go Overseas- Meet Ke Li, a UNH engineering research assistant on scholarship from China. In China, he paid just \$1000 a year in tuition and housing, plus food costs for a four year B.E. He worked his way through college as a tutor. As a research assistant at UNH, Li only pays \$692 a semester in tuition, as well costs for his apartment and food. "American schools are very expensive...If international students cannot get scholarships, they can't come." While obviously there is a language barrier at certain schools, thousands of schools around the world teach in English and offer accredited degrees at far lower costs than their American counterparts.

4. Take Online Courses- Online courses are an incredibly cheap way to work towards a college degree. While not practical for obtaining a four year degree, these courses can provide associates degrees in many fields, or reduce the amount of time you spend at a more expensive college. Courses are frequently only a few hundred dollars, and with today's technology offer features such as video conferences, virtual laboratories, and web based testing. "It's really do it yourself...you have to be motivated," commented Senior Robert Kang, who took math credits online. "It's a weird thing though because you're never in a classroom with people."

5. Join the Military- While not for everyone, the military is one of the easiest ways to pay for school. "They pay for your education...and then they pay for you to work for them," explains Naval Academy applicant Ricky Hoyt. Upon graduation you must serve for at least 4-5 years.

December 9th, 2008



Nate Hoff

OYSTER RIVER GOES DEMOCRATIC

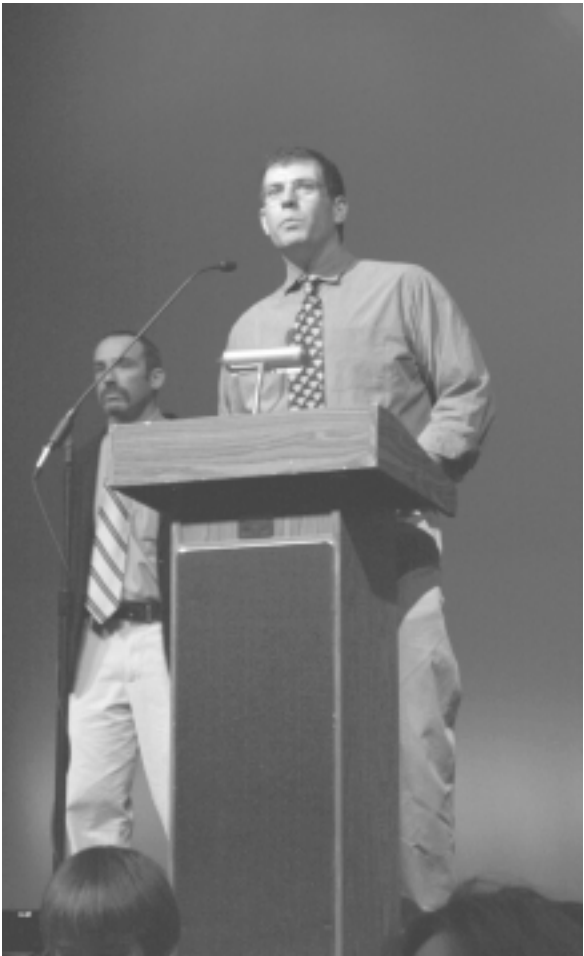
Welcomed by hoots and hollers as well as much laughter, Oyster River High School sophomore presidential candidate, Grant Chamberlin delivered a speech through a thick Alaskan accent as he portrayed the Republican vice president hopeful, Sarah Palin. Accompanying Chamberlin were two secret service members to ensure the safety of the nominee.

Every four years we elect a new president and this year at Oyster River High School was no different. The students of Mr. Pappas' and Mr. Cangelo's classes participated in a mock election on November 3rd in which the roles of the candidates were played by sophomores. Very similar to the real deal, each candidate had a campaign manager who quickly appeared on stage briefing the crowd before the nominee made their appearance. Each presidential and vice-presidential hopeful then emerged from the wings of the stage to a tune played by the Jazz Band. After greeting and thanking the audience, speeches were delivered and promises made.

At lunch time with a voting booth and ballots created the Oyster River High School student body elected Barack Obama (sophomore, Justine Young) as president and Joe Biden (sophomore, Emily Dube) as vice-president.



Sophomore, Emily Dube as Joe Biden



Get out and VOTE!!



Sophomore, Justine Young as Barack Obama



A roster of students was provided to the registrars. They then checked off each name and provided the student with a ballot.



TOP LEFT: A lot of laughs were provided by sophomore Grant Chamberlin as he portrayed Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin. Chamberlin captivated the audience in his high heels and makeup as well as with his speech and charisma.

TOP RIGHT: Sophomore, Roy Hutton as John McCain. "It was a lot of fun playing the part of a candidate. It was cool to be up in front of the entire school being somebody that everybody else knows."

CENTER: Secret service agent, Attisano.



The votes are cast!



Laura Gallant

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY?

It's the last day of spirit week. People are enjoying their pizza and sliding down the National Guard's inflatable obstacle course. Over by the cotton candy machine there is a table. At this table sits the Durham SDS; none too thrilled about the National Guard's presence.

SDS is a large student organization that was created in 1960, and died out in 1969, before being revived in 2006.



The SDS logo. Photo courtesy of Google Images

Senior Alex Freid created a SDS chapter in Durham this year. He was inspired to create the Durham chapter after learning about what the group accomplished in the 60's. He sees parallels between the issues now and those in the 60's that the students were protesting against. The Durham Students for a Democratic Society Facebook Group's mission statement is, "SDS is an education and social action organization dedicated to increasing Democracy in all phases of our common life. It seeks to promote the active participation of young people in the formation of a movement to build a society free from poverty, ignorance, war, exploitation, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and environmental

destruction."

"People seem to be ignoring what's going on, but in this area there are a lot of people who would take action," said Freid. "SDS is for anyone who's concerned about what's going on and believes in the 'power of the people'," he said. "We are living in a society that is governed by the rich. If we make our voices heard, then maybe we can change things. SDS has made a difference."

Freid paints a positive portrait of SDS, but its' history and roots are controversial. In the 60's, a man named Bill Aires, a former member of SDS, created a branch of SDS called The Weathermen. This group has documented cases of bombings on empty buildings and is known as a terrorist group. SDS's past connections to The Weathermen have made the group controversial. Senior Jill Ziegler is frustrated that the school allows a student group in the school that she feels is linked to terrorism. "It's the idea," she said, "Why not start your own group that's not related? It's like being a branch of the KKK, but saying 'Oh wait, we're not bad!' while going around and killing. They are anarchists with no regard for the law."

Principal Laura Rogers said that SDS is not a school organization because there are several members from other towns and school districts. Community based organizations are allowed to use the high school for meetings without administrative approval. Another example of this is the Community Service Club.

Freid offered lots of assurances that there won't be a string of exploding buildings in downtown Durham. "It's not right and I don't condone it," he said.

Ziegler still sees some parallels between the former terrorist group and the current Durham branch. "SDS is not open to anything but its' own agenda. That's what led to so much violence," she said. "What gives them the right to go yelling at people [to recycle] and not show anyone respect?"

Senior Lisa Hoff agreed with Ziegler. "They're trying to make a positive influence, but they don't see other ways, so they are useless," she said.



Alex Freid at the SDS table during spirit week.



An SDS protest. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Freid offered an explanation by saying, "SDS is radical left and outside of the box. We try to get as much press as we can. Some members of SDS are willing to be arrested if it means they make front page." He quickly added that no one in the Durham Chapter plans on being arrested.

Recent Events

- A protest of the nuclear submarine USS New Hampshire. The creators held a \$300,000 party for a \$2 Billion sub. The sub was released anyways.
- Gimme Shelter homeless simulation. They sat outside the state house and slept overnight.
- A protest at different departments of education, Nov. 14, to protest the rising cost of student debt.

Upcoming Events

- A counter recruitment protest in Durham. Date: TBA.
- A youth peace conference. This is a weekend where students gather and there are speakers who talk about non-violence. Date: Sometime in April TBA.
- They are trying to find an Iraq veteran, who opposes the war, to speak.

HOMEWORK: A WASTE OF TIME?



Daniel Day

After a long hard day at school you finally have your freedom. You get home and want to relax, maybe watch Monday Night Football. But the moment you walk in the door, you realize you have a lot of homework ahead of you. That football game will just have to wait.

After school hours, many Oyster River students are homework's slaves, being forced to read, write, and do all kinds of things they wished they wouldn't have to do. Don't teachers understand that students have better things to do than homework?

But teachers do understand. In fact, many teachers felt the same way when they were in school.

"I hated it!" said social studies teacher David Hawley. "I thought it was useless and I couldn't stand it."

One of Hawley's colleagues, Lou Mroz, is known for his nightly homework assignments and weekly essays. However, he had a very similar response. "I hated it!" he stated when asked how he felt about homework as a kid.

So why do these teachers give so much homework? Mroz explained that in high school he wasn't very academically oriented, but in college, he figured out that homework is important. He stated that it's reasonable for a high school student to receive 30 to 40 minutes of homework a night, per course. Using that formula, a student with six courses would have about four hours.

Assistant Principal Mike McCann agreed. "If you're taking 7 classes, you're going to have a lot of homework every night. 4 hours, 5 hours."

However, recent studies have shown that too much homework isn't good for students. In a review of studies on homework, Duke University found that too much homework can actually hurt



Dahlia Sawtelle doing homework during a free period.

students. Harris Cooper, a professor from Duke, stated in a press release that "even for high school students, overloading them with homework is not associated with higher grades."

So how much is the right amount of homework? According to Cooper, it's about ten minutes per grade, or two hours for high school students.

In some cases, Oyster River appears to be giving just that. Senior Sam Bagdon reported that she gets two hours. However, since she has two free periods, much of it is finished in school.

Junior Matt Webber also reported doing one to two hours of homework, but he does his at night. "I don't plan to do much besides running and homework," he stated, pointing out that he has missed out on watching some TV shows, as well as Monday Night Football.

For Sophomore Benjamin Rosenthal, reading for a class sometimes prevents him from reading for pleasure. Rosenthal reports doing four to six hours of homework a night.

Despite taking time out of students' free time, homework does have some benefits. Thomas Zarnowski, the assistant superin-

tendent, believes that homework should be assigned to accomplish specific tasks or practice specific skills, and should not just be a daily ritual. "I believe homework should be given judiciously," he stated.

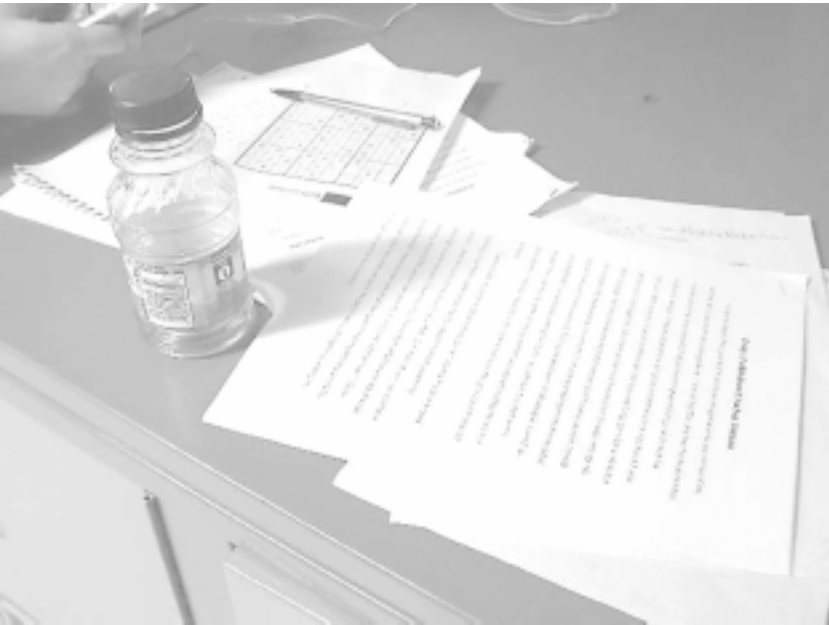
Superintendent Howard Colter agrees. "[Homework] helps a student to apply or master a lesson." He added, "I think it is too bad when students have so much homework assigned at one time that there is not time for family, personal interests, and getting outside."

Students also value homework, to a certain extent. Oyster River junior Matt Webber said, "I think in some classes it helps you understand the material better." However, Webber also stated that there are times when it's not so helpful. "There are some classes where it just turns out to be a lot of busy work." He gave the example of chemistry saying how he doesn't like back to back homework on the same concept. "I don't need two homeworks on something we just learned."

Kai Schidlovsky agrees with Webber. "A few problems are okay because it helps you to figure out what you're learning in class," he said. "But getting three pages of homework is ridiculous."

Bagdon also thinks that sometimes teachers give a little more than necessary. "You could do half the amount of work and still understand the concept." On the other hand, Bagdon noted, "Sometimes you really [do] need the repetition."

Principal Laura Rogers looks at homework from both a principal's and a parent's point of view. Speaking of her teenage son, "Sometimes it's worth the time he puts into it and sometimes it isn't," she said. She noted her philosophy on homework. "We need to make sure as teachers that when we assign something for homework the pay-off in student learning is worth it."



HOMEWORK IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: DOES IT HELP?



Daniel Day

Homework may be an important part of a high school student's studies, but is it really necessary at the elementary school level?

Tess, a fourth grader at Mast Way Elementary School, stated an obvious purpose for homework. "I like homework because it lets you learn new stuff," she said.

During a visit to Maria Bowden-Gerard's fourth grade class at Mast Way, the majority of the class seemed to accept homework. Claire, another one of Bowden-Gerard's students, said she especially liked social studies. "It's fun to work on a project," she said.

Although only in fourth grade, students mentioned all kinds of interesting experiences with homework. One student said, "My sister was eating pizza and a...

Article continued on page 8

December 9th, 2008

Elementary continued from page 7

...hornet came in. She freaked out and got pizza all over [the homework].”

Although teachers don’t always believe the classic, “Dog ate my homework” excuse, according to these students, it does happen. “My friend’s dog ripped up the homework and her teacher didn’t believe her,” Claire said.

One student apparently loves homework so much, he wouldn’t even stop doing it to go to the bathroom. “I dropped it in the toilet by accident,” he said.

Mast Way Elementary School Principal David Michaud admitted he is not a huge fan of homework, although he does think that “it teaches kids responsibility.” In any case, Michaud doesn’t think students should get more than 30 to 40 minutes a night.

Superintendent Howard Colter also be-

lieves homework in elementary school should be kept to a minimum. “Homework can be helpful to students in reinforcing skills and methods introduced at school,” he noted. “At the same time, students need time to be outdoors, reading, exploring and interacting with family and friends.”

Over at Moharimet, third grader Olivia Graham thinks her homework is, “sometimes a little hard, but it’s fun.” She said math homework helps her practice her skills. “It makes math a lot easier to do.”

According to Harris Cooper at Duke University, there is evidence that homework is less helpful in elementary school than in high school. In an article in the San Francisco Chronicle, he pointed out that the perfect research is yet to be conducted. “We’re waiting for the absolutely perfect study in which kids are randomly assigned to do or not do homework for their entire academic careers,” he stated. For Oyster River students waiting to sign up, Cooper adds, “But don’t hold your breath for that one.”



Students of Maria Bowden-Gerrard's 4th grade class study.

THE HANDY CELL PHONE



Nate Hoff

"I don't know where I would be without my cell phone. It lets me keep in touch with all of my friends and family members. If I didn't have my cell phone with me I think I would feel lost," said Oyster River High School senior, Bridget Hart. "I think it is awesome how I can easily just be anywhere and be able to contact who ever I want, whenever I want."

The first call made from a cell phone was in April of 1973 by its inventor Dr. Martin Cooper who worked for Motorola. The original cell phone was big, awkward, and not designed to be a fashion accessory. After their invention, cell phones were used almost entirely by wealthy and important businessmen. However, in more recent times the cell phone has taken on the role of a necessity, not a luxury. Now anybody can purchase a cell phone and there are plenty of companies to provide them. In

public, people are constantly spotted chatting on their precious handset or headset. But, is there a place where the use of a cell phone needs to be restricted or banned?

Some students believe that there is a time and place for cell phones. "Using a cell phone in school is most of the time unnecessary," stated Oyster River High School senior, Travis Blumenthal. "I do think that you should be able to use a phone if you have forgotten something, like a binder or notebook at home and need somebody to come bring it to you at school. Besides that, I don't think kids should be using their phones in school."

Some teachers are laid back when it comes to cell phone policy while others are very strict when a cell phone goes off in class. Depending on the teacher, there are certain rules to be followed when it comes to cell phone use. Reactions can range anywhere from a chuckle to a stern look to a confiscation of the phone. While some teachers have problems with the cell phones others have never experienced situations in which a student was using their mobile phone.

"I have never had a problem with cell phones going off in class," said Steve Lord, a foreign language teacher at Oyster River High School. "I don't really know how I would react if a phone started ringing."

As times change so does the use of the cell phone. Originally designed to allow people to contact each other through verbal communication, cell phones are now being used without verbal connection. A hip new form of communication known as texting has taken over the younger scene. Using a unique shortened language, texting allows people to communicate without making a sound.

"It's crazy to watch the number of students that sit in class and text. Not having to teach the class allows me to see more of when and how kids are using their cell phones," said Oyster River High School paraprofessional Dave Jasinski. "Sometimes they say that they are texting their parents, but if it is such an emergency then the parent should call the school, not the kid."

Freshman, Joe Lane doesn't use his phone to text his parents while in class, but has found another use for it. "Sometimes I will sit in class and text somebody that I know is in class and has their phone turned on. It's funny to then find out that their phone went off in the middle of class and they had to apologize for having it on."

School isn't the only place where people can be annoyed by cell phone use. Some drivers sport bumper stickers saying: Hang Up And Drive accompanied by a picture of a cell phone with a slash going through it. Even restaurants and dining establishments have signs stating they will not serve you until you hang up your phone. There are even some states that ban the use of cell phones while driving. In the state of New York, a police officer can pull over a driver if they are on a handset while operating a moving vehicle. Other states like Minnesota and New Jersey ban the use of text messaging while behind the wheel of an automobile.

As the cell phone evolves and the advancement in technology continues it can only be expected that mobile phones will become smaller while doing bigger and better things. Cell phones will stay in the public eye and be used by whomever and whenever necessary.



SCHOOL SENATE NEWS

The School Senate, administered by Mr. Zottoli, wants to keep you informed about what we are doing. Recently we have split up into committees to focus on different areas in need of improvement. The five committees are: the Communications Committee, the Spirit Committee, the Grant Writing Committee, the Events Committee, and the Judicial Committee. Each is doing specific things to maintain and strengthen the school.

The Communications Committee, led by Ella Nimo, is focusing on keeping the student body connected with the Senate so that you can make changes and suggestions. Their priority is planning and coordinating the senate forums, as well as finding other ways to keep the school connected with the Senate (hence this article).

The Spirit Committee, led by John Carigan, is finding ways to keep school spirit high and encourage students to attend sporting events and school functions. Some of their ideas will be taking effect shortly.

The Grant Writing committee, led by Weilin Li, is researching and writing applications for grants that will bring money to the school for special projects. Their current focus is obtaining a grant for trail development in the conservation area between the high school and the middle school. A future grant focus is for a solar panel array on the school.

The Events Committee, led by Yang Yang Jing and Daniel Walzack, is planning school sponsored student events. Their focus right now is Winter Fest, which will be coming up in February.

The Judicial committee, led by Emily Dube, is working with the school administration to improve school policies. They are currently working for students to be able to enter the school through any door with a student ID. More details will be announced at the upcoming senate forum. For more information about a committee, talk to the committee chairs or any other senate member. If you have questions or suggestions, please have them ready for the senate forum December 15th.

SDS cotinued from page 6

Marjke Yatsevich, the faculty advisor of Durham SDS, said that SDS knows how to work with people in a positive way, and that it is exciting to see the students working and collaborating with people. "I'm really impressed by how large a scope SDS is. There's lots of conversation with a lot of people. Some things they do are really helpful," she said.

The Durham Chapter is organized into four working committees. The first works on counter recruitment. You may have noticed how at major school events the National Guard comes to Oyster River to recruit students. SDS wants to "expose the lies and false pretences that the National Guard uses to entice students" said Freid. He wants to educate students of peaceful alternatives to joining the National Guard.

The second committee runs Oyster River's new recycling system. This system consolidates all recyclable items into a single disposal system, to be sorted later. A larger variety of items can now be recycled, including aluminum, glass, and cardboard. SDS members have been standing near the trashcans during lunch to remind people to recycle.

The third committee runs a program called Think Outside the Bottle. This is an organization to raise awareness of how harmful plastic water bottles are to the environment.

The fourth committee organizes upcoming events.



The sub being protested. Photo courtesy of Google Images.



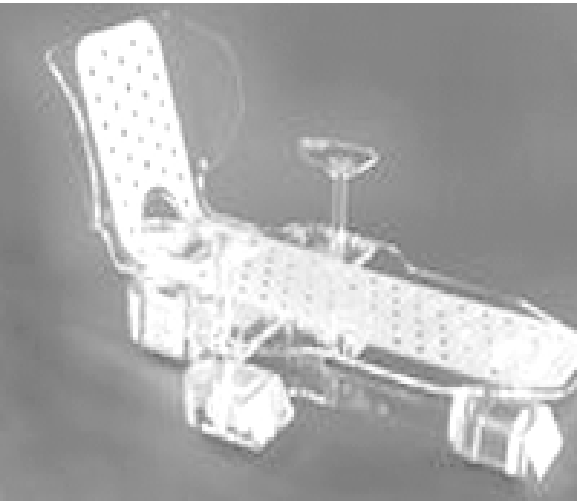
Laura Gallant

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

The world is a crazy place. Humans pride themselves on being the most intelligent and evolved creatures on the planet. That's why it's hard to believe when things like these happen. Check out some weird news briefs from other parts of the world (All articles courtesy of Yahoo Odd News).

Japanese Man Petitions to Marry Comic Book Character

Japan, Recently Taichi Takashita began a petition to the government to allow people to marry cartoon characters. After one week the petition had already gathered 1000 signatures. "I am no longer interested in three dimensions. I would even like to become a resident of the two-dimensional world," Takashita said in Yahoo's article. It is unknown if his petition is a joke or not, but some signers are dead serious about their intentions. "For a long time I have only been able to fall in love with two-dimensional people and currently I have someone I really love," one person wrote. Currently Japan only supports marriage between 3 dimensional people, so these maverick loves will have to wait.



The Hover Chair. Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Hover Chair Hopes to Rise Above Economic Woes

London, you read that headline correct; it says hover chair! The age of The Jetsons isn't too far away. The chair is one of many attractions at a recent gadget show in London. The anti-gravity Land speeder in Star Wars is what inspired Keith Dixon, the inventor, to create the chair. It uses powerful magnets to propel itself off the ground. When relaxing in it, it feels as if you are "sitting on a cloud." They will be available for your purchase if you are willing to drop the 6-grand to buy one.

Vicar Ends up in Hospital after Potato gets Stuck in his Bottom

London, according to the vicar (a bishop's assistant in charge of a church) he was hanging curtains naked when he fell backward onto his kitchen table, which had a potato laying on its surface. The man was embarrassed during his removal surgery, and kept insisting that the potato had not ended up there by... other means.

Man Cleaning with Blowtorch sets Fire to House

Georgia, USA, blowtorches are not good substitutes for brooms. Galen Winchell was using a torch to clean cobwebs when he noticed that smoke was pouring out of his attic. The fire was contained to one section of the house and no one was hurt.



A possible user of the device? Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Beer Truck Driver Accused of Driving Drunk

Colorado, USA, a beer truck driver was arrested and sent to a detoxification facility after he flipped over a delivery truck full of beer. The man was leaving an interstate and turned too fast onto the ramp. The wreckage blocked up the road for nearly 24 hours. The beer remained unharmed.

Purified Urine to be Astronauts' Drinking Water

Florida, USA, NASA has invented a urine recycling device for astronaut's use. To see if the finished product was edible, astronauts did a blind test of regular water and the new substitute. Some people detected a taste of iodine, but the new beverage was deemed just as refreshing. NASA will be ending the program in 2010, so this new invention will only have a short reign. NASA is using this new invention because there isn't enough water aboard the ten remaining spacecrafts.



Granite Capstone Development
From the ocean to the mountains, creators of unique fine homes.
4 Birch Hill Rd. Lee NH, 03824 (603) 659-6850



Bridget Burns

DON'T BE HATIN'

Is intolerance a problem at ORHS? In New Hampshire? In the country? Jared Foley, an African American sophomore at ORHS believes, "I think that for the most part ORHS isn't a racist school but you can always find people who have a problem with you because you look different than them. I know that people joke around and use 'nigga' in their everyday vocabulary, but I don't really have a problem with it because the people I know that say it don't mean it in a bad way. I haven't had any problems with legit racists here though, I've only heard stories." However, Foley does say "when I visit the South I get the looks and every now and then someone yelling something at me but I don't let it get to me."



Courtesy of www.dcpoliticalreport.com/PartySymbols/, symbol of National Socialist Party

For some groups, maintaining white dominance is a priority. "Our general position is that we don't want to see our historic European culture destroyed," said Sean McBride in a phone interview. McBride is the longest serving member of The White Socialist Party of America. The party's main goal is to eliminate illegal aliens, as well as to keep "European culture" alive in the United States. Their plan? "First of all, we find those who are illegal and send them home," McBride said. "We then take legal action against the companies who brought in illegals." He adds "We do have some active military servicemen and some law enforcement in the party."

The website (nsm88.org), which is blocked on the school network, has links to pro-white organizations, and frequently holds rallies encouraging politicians to rid the country of illegal immigrants. The website is covered in swastikas and Hitler's picture. According to the website, "The National Socialist Movement (aka NSM88) is the largest Nazi Party operating in the United States of America today. We are the political party for every patriotic American. Inspired by our Führer Adolf Hitler, Commander Jeff Schoep leads the movement, which has members in most states and in some overseas countries. Heil Hitler."

As of November 20th, a picture on the home page of their website featured a painting of Anne Frank being burned. The answering machine at Party headquarters states "We refuse to let our country become one giant Alamo. Remember, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem!"

According to The Southern Poverty Law Center, a website that tracks hate groups in the United States, (splcenter.org) New Hampshire has four active hate groups. The groups listed on the map are North East White Pride, The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Germaneorden Society, and The National Knights of The Ku Klux Klan. North East Pride does not have a contact for non-members, but have been vocal in recent times about illegal immigration. The Nashua Telegraph quotes Rob O'Donovan, a member of North East White Pride as saying "We reject the popular use of the term 'racists' or 'supremacists' as we don't hate anyone because of their cultural identity, we do however, seek to protect our own cultural identity and heritage from being obscured by those of others, especially when those customs clash significantly with the morals and ethics of our American cultural heritage."

However, on the North East White Pride website, they "support freedom of speech for white nationalists." Also, North East White Pride has protested Boston's Afro-American History Museum on Martin Luther King Day.

The only other New Hampshire group available for contact were The Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Brother Andre Marie's philosophies and writings can be found at Catholicism.org. The group has been accused of being homophobic and anti-Semitic. Marie defended his views during a phone interview. "Well, we're not anti-Semitic. Our main disagreement with the Jews is theological. If they want to belong to the same religion as Abraham, then that is the Catholic faith." In response to the accusations of homophobia, he said, "The church says homosexuality is 'a grave disorder.' Engaging in sexual contact is disordered and sinful. It leads to spiritual death. It is unnatural and it doesn't lead to happiness. We're dead set against it." When asked about same sex marriage, Brother Andre Marie said "To call it (same sex) marriage is absurd. The church is rigorously resisting homosexual matrimony."

On a national scale, the SPLC recognizes 888 hate groups in America. This does not mean every group commits hate crimes or is illegal. One of the most controversial of these groups is The Jewish Defense League. The JDL clearly states on the homepage of the website "The Jewish Defense League unconditionally condemns terrorism of all forms. Terrorism is never a legitimate means to the furtherance of political goals." Shelley Rubin, who is the chairwoman of JDL, had much to say about anti-Semitism during a phone interview.



The Logo of The Jewish Defense League
Courtesy of www.fas.org/irp/world/para/kach.htm

"Hate" continued on page 11

“Hate” continued from page 10

“When times are good, Jew haters stay relatively quiet, they’re fed, they’re drinking beer, but when economic times are bad, you’ll see a resurgence of anti-Semitism. Most scape goating is done to the Jews. We feel that those who scape goat are just bullies, and if you stand up to them, they will think twice, and when one comes to slay you, you rise up and slay them first.” JDL was chaired by Irv Rubin before Shelley Rubin took over after his death. Irv Rubin was charged with plotting to bomb a mosque in December of 2001. With counterpart Earl Krugel, Rubin plotted to blow up the King Fahd Mosque in Los Angeles and the San Clemente office of Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif according to Fox News. During one secretly audiotaped meeting, Krugel allegedly said Arabs “need a wakeup call” and the JDL needed to do something to one of their “filthy” mosques, according to an affidavit. Rubin admitted to being arrested over 40 times. Rubin died November 15th 2002, from self inflicted injuries suffered while attempting suicide according to prison officials. Rubin’s family does not believe he tried to commit suicide. When the phrase “gas the Arabs JDL” is entered into Google Images, it shows twelve images of racist graffiti signed by JDL. Rachel Schmidt, a mainstream Jew and member of the ORHS community says “I don’t know anyone in my temple who is a member of the Jewish Defense League, and I certainly am not.”

In connection to the election, Rubin states “We are also concerned that Barack Obama will elect a liberal supreme court that the government will pass legislation to control bearing arms. JDL feels this is exactly what happened in Germany, when Hitler took away weapons.” Rubin also touched upon Israel “We need a Jewish state made up from Jews. No one has the right to take Israel from Jews. To allow Arabs to take over by bullets or baby is wrong. It is not an international country, anyone who says it is not right, there is not much between them and regular Jew haters.”

ORHS is certainly not a hateful place. Allen Coq, a junior who is half Haitian and half white says, “ORHS I do not think is racist. In school I have not experienced any direct racial discrimination.” But he does admit “I have felt that some people aren’t as comfortable around me as they would another white person. Everyone is nice enough but some I can tell they can’t be as truthful or fair because of my race, and I’m not saying that they are racist, just naturally a little uncomfortable around someone of a different race that they have not seen too many of before.”

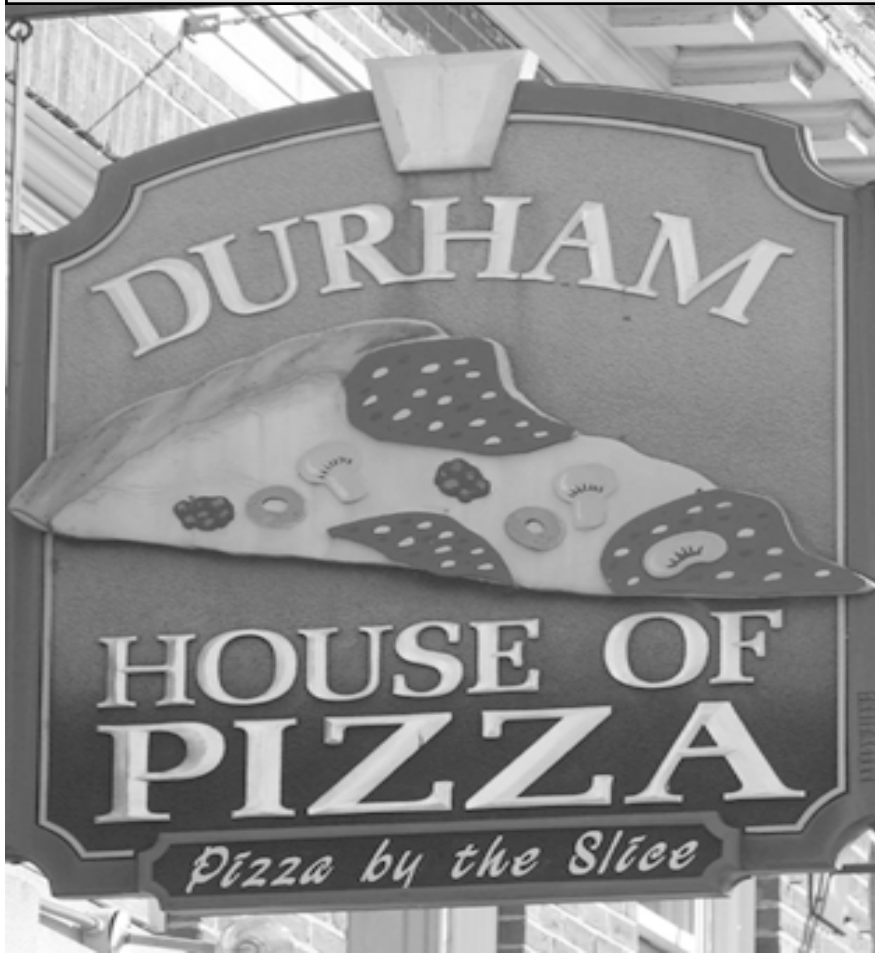
Jenny Jing, a senior who is Chinese has high praise for students at ORHS. “I would definitely say that the people at ORHS are some of the most unprejudiced people I have ever met. Though it is dominantly caucasian, I’ve never seen any acts or comments of racism.” Racism in general? “People try so hard to pretend there are no differences, but honestly that’s the problem. There are differences, but people should accept them, not pretend there aren’t any differences. When I was twelve, I was on a bus in Detroit and a bus driver told me to move to the back of the bus. I wasn’t the only one who was asked to do that.”



Courtesy of <http://media.www.unogateway.com/>, protest of Neo Nazi activity

F
E
A
T
U
R
E
S

Durham House of Pizza



Pizza by the slice or by the pie Weekly Specials

- Sunday: Super 20” Cheese Pizza - \$10.99
- Monday: Small 10” Cheese Pizza - \$4.25
- Tuesday: Large 16” Cheese Pizza - \$7.50
- Thursday: Cheese Calzone - \$3.75

\$1.00 slices
Week-days 2-4pm

STAFF OF THE ISSUE: MR. “BOB” HEUCHLING



Matt DeGrace

Mr. Heuchling, better known as “Mr. H”, is the second recipient of the Staff of the Issue Award. He is the recipient due to his somewhat covert work that helps this school run efficiently. When he substitutes for a class he projects fairness and leniency while still controlling a class and getting things done. "He does a great job of working with the students and is just simply a great guy," says Principal Laura Rogers. He also brings his attributes to his other duties at the high school, such as his job as the girls' tennis coach. "He's a great coach," says Gabrielle Guerra, a member of the girls' tennis team. "He always makes sure we have fun, but still perform well. He's the man."

Mr. Heuchling does his job here at Oyster River but goes the extra mile to be friendly and welcoming, and that is why he is the recipient of the Staff of the Issue Award.

What is your position?

I am the permanent substitute, substitute coordinator and the Girls high school tennis coach.

Do you feel you deserve this award?

Probably not, there are much more deserving people here than me.

What do you think your reward should be?

A box of Juju Fruits, I love them. Juju Fruits are similar to dots but much more fruity tasting.

Who do you think was your biggest competition for this award?

Mr. Brewer, because Brewer's a great teacher, motivational speaker and he's the only one in the school with a British accent, so he's got me beat.

How do you feel this award will affect your career?

Maybe they'll give me a day off, with pay.

If you could be any athlete who would you be?

Rafael Nadal, because he's got to be able to get the girls.



Mr. Heuchling hard at work substituting

STUDENT OF THE ISSUE: MARINA SLAVIN!

Sophomore Marina Slavin is an enthusiastic, energetic member of Oyster River's running team, and if you know how she types on Facebook (She uses nearly 13 exclamation points every other sentence), it just might give you an inkling as to the amount of positive energy that Marina brings to our school.

Here at MOR, we thought that it would be a good idea to nominate her as student of the issue!

MOR: You are the fastest girl here at Oyster River. Do you have other superpowers?

Marina: I wish I could fly...and I'm not fastest, silly, there are plenty of us! Like Eileen and Kylee and Zoey and Kristen and Bridgette and Sarah and Marie and Lia and Katja and Rachel and Madeleine and Emily and Alli and Devan and Gabby and Gabby and Molly and more...

MOR: What's the best part about running?

Marina: The teamness! And, of course, my totally completely



The student of the issue, on her way to gym class.



Aillinn Connors

amazing sister...plus all the Fun we have.

MOR: Stripes or polka dots?
Marina: Purple and white polka dots!!

MOR: City or country?
Marina: Country.

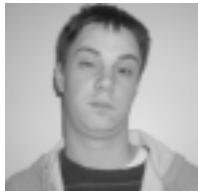
MOR: Inside joke from Cross Country that nobody else would understand?
Marina: There are sooooo many that I'll just laugh [instead.]

MOR: What would you rather be, a llama or an alpaca? (There is a difference between the two. According to Wikipedia, "Alpacas and llamas differ in that alpacas have straight ears and llamas have banana-shaped ears. Aside from these differences, llamas are on average 1-2 feet taller...")

Marina: Eeny meeny miny mo...I can't decide! They're both so cute.

MOR: Which would you rather live in, a yurt or a tiki-hut?

Marina: Definitely a tiki-hut.



Max Snelling

ASK MAX

Gubby Noronha: Why is the sky blue?

Max: Well Gubby, the sky is blue because little blue men from outer space came to our world one day, and they looked up at our sky, and saw that it had no color, and they were all like, "What the #S%!, the sky has no color..." Then a meteor fell from the sky, and turned some of the blue men into a thick blue paste which spattered into the sky, and gave the sky a blue look. The other blue men liked the new color, so they enslaved the rest of their race and spattered them on the sky till it was completely blue. After this the blue men were tried for crimes against their race in Intergalactic Court, and they were found guilty. In punishment for their crimes they were mashed up into sticky gooey globs, and left to dry. One member of the intergalactic court happened to have an entrepreneurial streak to him, so he put the goo in egg shaped containers, dyed it different colors, and began selling what has come to be referred to as Silly Putty.

Sam Modigliani: How much wood does a woodchuck in Kentucky chuck?

Max: Sam, this is a tantalizing question.* My gut instinct is to say 47 cubic pounds, but when you look into the question further you realize that that just isn't right. Woodchucks in Kentucky are notoriously known for their wood devouring capabilities, which were seen in devastating effect in 1810, when an entire pioneer town in Kentucky was eaten by ravenous woodchucks, who also stole the town's children, and raised them as wood-chucks (Learn more in Sara G. Worlikers amazing autobiography "Dances with Woodchucks: Owww... the little #S@#-head bit me"). The effects of this tragic attack can still be seen today in the ruins of Tousey, Kentucky, where all that is left is piles of metal nails, and the window panes... But back on the subject... Since the Kentucky woodchuck is a formidable chucker,** and holds an average weight of 3,000 pounds, and since Kentucky no longer holds any forests or wooden homes (all Kentuckians live in concrete bunkers, or hobbit-holes) I would say that a woodchuck in Kentucky chucks on average no wood, because all of its greedy brethren already ate all the wood, and left none for the poor woodchuck in question. Personally I would advise the woodchuck to move to Canada (great forests up there) or to go cannibalistic and eat all its brethren since they ate all its food... I hope that answers your question Sam, but if you feel it was inadequate then check out http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_much_wood_could_a_woodchuck_chuck_if_a_woodchuck_could_chuck_wood, some of the answers given here are quite intriguing. Or you could just Google the question.

Peter Krumpe: If the Jonas Brothers and Hannah Montana were lost in the woods, who would survive longer?

Max: Peter, this is a question that keeps millions of tweenagers awake at night, and I am glad to say that I can finally put an end to the question. Through scientific research it has been found that the hair products used by the Jonas Brothers can be eaten for sustenance. With this advantage, and the fact that their father did not write a song called "Achy Breaky Heart" (sorry Hannah) I believe the Jonas Brothers would survive. Plus there are three of the Jonas Brothers, so when they run out of hair products they can eat each other until there is one left... (Personally I would root for Nick to be eaten last since he is dreamy...).

Molly Snelling: If Jesus and a T-Rex got in a fight, who would win?

Max: The polar bear... duh...

Bryce Harding: Max, what would you do with a million dollars?

Max: Well first I'd buy world peace (it is really cheap since all the global markets crashed), and then I would buy a small island in the Bahamas, name myself dictator over the natives, and then force them all to wear really goofy costumes, like an octopus or a fuzzy bear costume. Then I would have a giant dance party, and I'd run around tripping the natives, and shouting gibberish at them, and then punishing them for not understanding English... yeah... that's what I'd do.

Amaryth Gass: Who would win in this fight; pirate vs. ninja vs. zombie vs. vampire vs. Chuck Norris?

Max: O.k. Amaryth...I don't know when this fight would happen, but I can say with reasonable confidence that if Chuck Norris doesn't immediately win and decided to leave the fight it would come down to the zombie and the vampires, seeing as how both of them are invincible, where as pirates and ninjas would eventually get tired and die. After that the victor is hard to choose, but I would have to say that at some point the sun will rise and they both will be owned by the sunlight, so in the end everybody would die, and the world would probably explode.

*: Side comment: It here must be stated that woodchucks do not in fact eat wood, and they are just stupidly named. However, for the sake of Miss Modigliani we will pretend that they do, so as to properly answer the question...

**:



DRAMATIC CUTS PROPOSED FOR NEXT YEAR’S BUDGET



Max Snelling

What’s truth and what’s fiction? It’s hard to know the line between the two when the Oyster River rumor mill gets going. The latest source of rumors is the proposed cuts to the high school in next year’s budget so that the school district can meet its goal of only a 3% raise from last year’s budget. One proposed cut in next year’s budget would be the discontinuation of the drama teacher position at the high school after the 2008-2009 school year. The best way to find out the truth about budget cuts? Go to a school board meeting. And since not every student

has the time to, Mouth of the River did.

On December 3, at 7:00 pm the school board met to have their first looks at the proposed budget for next year. In the beginning of the meeting a large contingent of students and parents stood up to voice their opposition to the proposal to terminate the drama teacher position at Oyster River High School. In all, about 15 people stood up to speak out against the proposal before the School Board declared that they had to move on with the meeting and told all other people who wished to speak, which was approximately nine people, that they could instead send letters to the School Board, or come to their next meeting on the 10th.

After the public discussion was done the School Board moved on to the matter of the budget, and Principal Laura Rogers, of Oyster River High School, stood up to outline the key high school budget changes for the next school year. Among these proposals were the termination of the drama teacher position from the high school, and the proposal to cut one chemistry class period due to the lack of numbers enrolling in the class.

Principal Rogers told the school board that the termination of drama teacher position, which caused the largest outcry from students and parents, was decided upon because of insufficient drama enrollment and class sizes over the last three years. According to Principal Rogers over the last three years 5.75, 8.75, and 8.5 were the average number of students taking drama courses at Oyster River High School. According to Principal Rogers and Superintendent Howard Colter, the minimum number of students taking a class has to be at 10 students for a class to not be considered for being cut, unless the class is for kids who lack mathematical or writing skills. Rogers and Colter also said that while the drama department’s numbers have been rising they still sit at an average of 6-9 students per class, which is below the required minimum.

Those who support the drama position, however, blame lack of enrollment on last year’s drama class scheduling issues. Acting II was offered as a two semester long course, which it is not, and Acting I could only accept students from grades 9, 10, and 11, while Acting II could only accept students from grades 11, and 12, which was again wrong. The drama supporters argued that because of these mistakes in the class offerings, many students were unable to take the classes because they believed they couldn’t. Principal Rogers disagreed with this argument stating that many of the students who could have found themselves unable to take the courses were freshmen, and many freshmen do not take any electives, so the increase of students would not have been significant.

The other argument put up by drama supporters is that three years is not enough time to allow the drama department to grow, and gain more student interest. This argument was also brought up by School Board Representative David Taylor when he mentioned that the original creator of the drama teacher position back in the ‘05-’06 school year, then interim principal Rick Gremlitz, believed the program would need at least four years to grow. School Board Representative Jennifer Rief asked how far back a class’s attendance history was looked at to decide if the class had low attendance and should be cut. Principal Rogers responded that since she has only been in the school for three years she could not fully answer that question, but she did say that how long a course has existed does not usually affect how far back she looks at the enrollment.

As the school board’s discussion over the termination of the drama teacher came to a close, School Board Representative D.Christie asked Principal Rogers if it was possible to have the drama classes taught every other year, like meteorology was taught at the high school. Rogers replied that the drama teacher, Meredith Freeman-Caple, had not proposed that idea yet, but that the possibility was open.

After this the school board decided that they must go on to other matters, but they did state that their discussion on the topic was not over, and would definitely be covered again. Anyone interested in the budget issues, both the drama teacher discussion, the cutting of a period of chemistry class, and all of the other proposed budget cuts, should consider attending the weekly Oyster River School Board meetings, which take place every Wednesday at seven o’clock. Or, if you must, just read Mouth of the River.



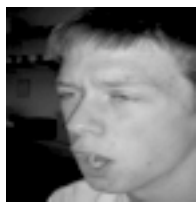
Students Brett Chamberlin, Georgia Borner, and Analise Stettner turned out at the recent school board meeting to speak against proposed cuts to the drama department.



A WINTER
WORDSEARCH Aillinn Connors

S	C	A	R	F	G	W	U	D	M	U	W
D	K	F	R	O	S	T	V	X	V	C	S
W	I	C	T	M	A	E	T	I	K	S	E
I	T	E	A	O	C	O	C	T	O	H	K
N	F	S	F	R	Z	M	Z	T	I	E	A
T	E	T	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	S	L
E	A	H	A	B	N	R	E	O	F	T	F
R	J	A	Q	T	T	W	O	E	J	O	W
C	J	T	U	E	S	W	B	O	E	O	O
O	U	O	C	L	V	N	H	E	D	B	N
A	S	Y	A	D	W	O	N	S	X	N	S
T	L	L	A	B	T	E	K	S	A	B	I

A SKILL OF A LIFETIME



Matt Degrace

I stood a few feet away as a student undid a bolt on the bottom of a car that was lifted in the air. With it being fairly early in the morning my mind was elsewhere until the student finally unscrewed the bolt, hot motor oil poured out and splattered on to the ground and searing hot oil droplets fell on my arm. I had been at the automotive class at Somersworth High School for ten minutes and I had already been scalded by searing hot oil, it was going to be an interesting day.

The Career Technical Centers are centers which provide job skills and training to high school students. The Career centers were formally known as vocational centers or better known as "Votech". They offer many different subjects of study and different job skills for students so that they can obtain knowledge of a subject for immediate job placement out of high school.

I spent the day at the Somersworth Career Technical Center (CTC) observing an automotive class, which a number of Oyster River students attend. The center is actually part of the Somersworth High School and offers a wide variety of classes and fields of study. The automotive class is located in the back of the high school and encompasses a class room and a large garage area that would put your local autom-

otive repair shop to shame. Slowly but surely the students funneled into the work area and immediately went to a task. Each week is split up with classroom information and understanding of procedures, and then one day a week there is a "project" day. The project day is a day in which students practice the skills they have learned in the class room. "The cars the kids work on are a mix of permanent work vehicles and customers cars," says James Niland the Automotive technology teacher at the Somersworth CTC. "The permanent vehicles will have the same activity done dozens of times on the same vehicle, they are there so that students can practice what they learned that week in class and better their skills," says Niland.

The CTC automotive class regularly performs repairs and other automotive services for the community as part of the students training and class work. "We do things for the community but, we don't want to undermine other local businesses," says Niland. "Their taxes pay for this class, we don't want to hurt their businesses... this is a school, the goal is to learn, not to make money." Students are able to regularly bring in their own vehicles to work on as part of their training and to practice



Pat Stevens showing off one of the tools of the trade

the skills they learn. "They pay for the parts they use on their cars," says Niland. "They're considered the same as customers." This part enables students to feel more involved in the class and see the results of their efforts for their own benefit. Although they are able to work on their own vehicles their priority is learning. The students are able to work on their vehicles as long as it is advancing their education and knowledge. Their first priority in the class is to learn

and further their abilities in a certain field, at the CTC "They're here to learn, not to have fun," says Niland. "Not to say they shouldn't."

The students who attend the CTC everyday are thankful to its existence and the knowledge it gives them towards a career. "It's great," says Pat Stevens a student at the CTC. "It teaches me a skill that even if I don't use in a career it's good to have in life." Stevens is a senior at Oyster River and is a second year student at the CTC. The CTC offers two year programs in which high school students enroll in during their junior year of high school. Mitch Minnelle is a junior, and this is the first year he has been enrolled at the CTC says "I love it, I've learned more in the short time I have been here about cars in this class than I have in my whole life." Mr. Troy the head of the Industrial Technology department at Oyster River and a former Career center student is now thankful of the training he received when he was younger. "I spent most of my time in high school at the vocational center," says Troy. "I knew I would be in a career where it would help me." Troy knew that the skills he learned



The Classroom where students are taught the automotive trade



The Garage area for the automotive class, located at the Somersworth CTC



Two students working on a vehicle together

VoTech Continued on page 16...

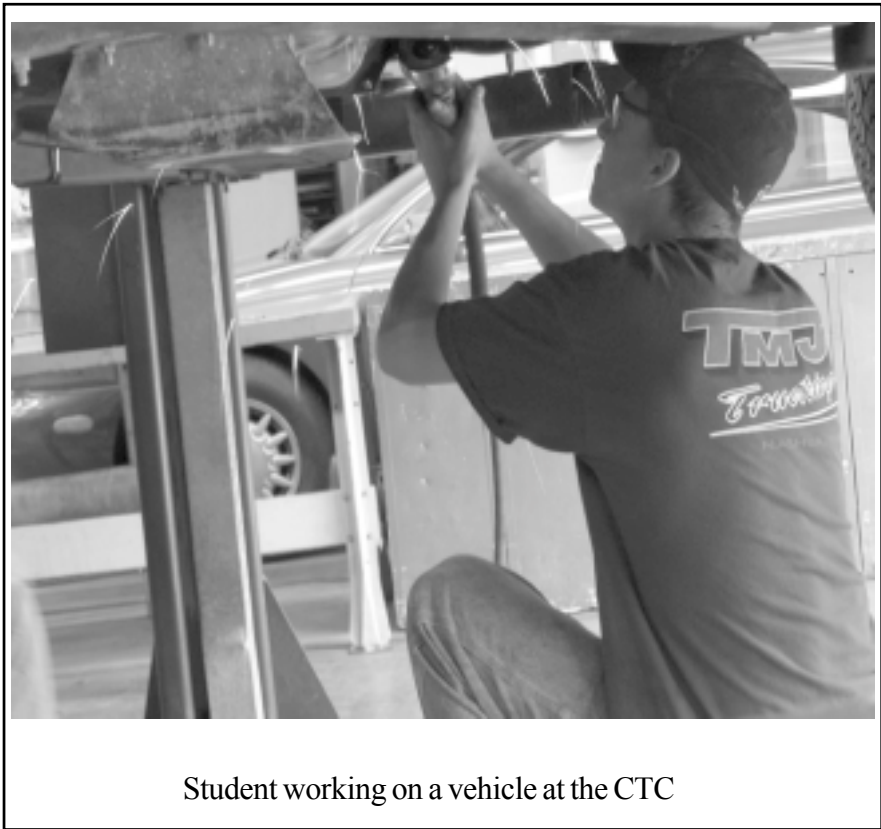
F
E
A
T
U
R
E
S

Continued from page 15...

would come in handy in life and would always have a use for it in life. "I was not a poetry guy, or a science guy or an English guy, this stuff just clicked for me," says Troy.

"The goal of the CTC was so that high schoolers could access career training centers," says Mrs. Rainone the Oyster Rivers' liaison to the CTC. "They enroll in a career field they're interested in...by the time a student graduates they will have finished a specific skill or field and provide them the ability to gain work right out of school." Mr. Troy as the industrial technology teacher at Oyster River plays a large role in students choosing the CTC for furthering their education. "We offer introductory courses to the CTC to help people decide what they want to do," says Troy. "We don't want people to be going there for two months then suddenly deciding they don't want to do it anymore, it's a commitment."

The CTC has been around for decades in one form or another and appears that it will be far into the future. Their programs vary immensely and all have different training and goals. They are here to help students and provide them opportunities for later in their life. "It is physically hard and intellectually draining," says James Niland. "This is not easy; anyone that says it is hasn't got a clue about this."



Student working on a vehicle at the CTC



Bridget Burns

LORETTA: IT HAS TO BE OR PRIDE

33 years is longer than most of us have been around. Every one of those thirty three years, students have had the pleasure of seeing Loretta every day when purchasing their lunch. Students who've gone through OR know Loretta, and almost all of us have a story pertaining to her. Senior Dahlia Sawtelle sums it up. "We all know Loretta and most of us see her everyday. She's a pretty big deal."

Loretta Langley began her education at Coney High School in Maine, and graduated from Farmington High School in New Hampshire. Since then, Langley has been employed through the Oyster River School District. She has worked here "since 1975, 33 years." What has kept her here? "Well, I enjoy working with the students and staff, everybody thinks I'm crazy, but I really do."

Langley chose to raise her family here.

"I have 5 kids, all graduated from Oyster River, and I used to live in Durham." She is now a resident of Lebanon, Maine. She enjoys spending time with her kids and grandkids. "I enjoy going to watch my granddaughter's sports."

What are some of the challenges of working at Oyster River?

"Getting a lot of the product out, and trying to get everything we order. We sometimes

have problems getting the drinks or other foods from the companies we order from." Otherwise, "I don't really find my job hard. I really enjoy coming to work." Langley reiterates, "I don't really have any trouble with the students as a whole."

Her future plans? "I plan on staying until I retire, as long as I can do my fair share, I will stay." Student Dahlia Sawtelle says, "Loretta doesn't take any crap. She's tough and she works really hard." Senior David Mistretta says, "Loretta is one tough cookie. She works real hard at what she does and she does a good job."

Principal Laura Rogers says "Loretta is great. She has been very patient with the new nutrition policy. Many of the new choices are not popular with the students but it is not the cafeteria staff's decision."

Assistant Principal Sara Wotton commends Loretta's dedication to the school. "She is always willing to come in to work special events- like the faculty lunch or any other event. She comes in early and stays late." Senior Sarah Trombley says, "While I haven't had much experience with Loretta, she seems to take her job very seriously and has always been pleasant. But I do miss the M & M cookies."



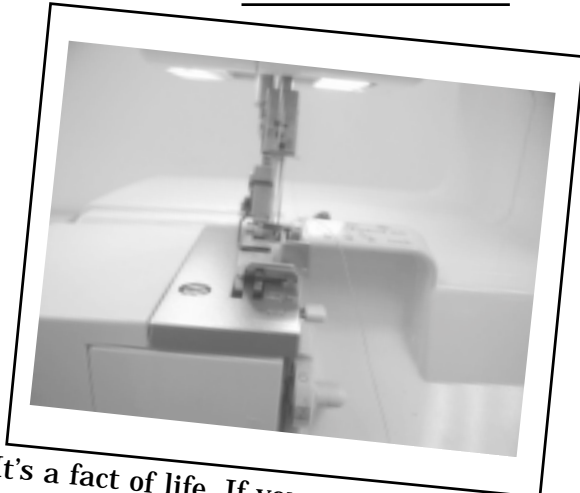
Loretta at work in the ORHS Cafe

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MRS. KISHBAUGH'S ROOM?

We students rarely hear about it, yet we know that there is stuff going on in Mrs. Kishbaugh's room. So, let's get to the bottom of this: what happens in Mrs. Kishbaugh's room?



Aillinn Connors



It's a fact of life. If you are going to sew, you have to learn how to thread the top of the sewing machine and the bobbin, but with time and practice, you could do it with your eyes closed.



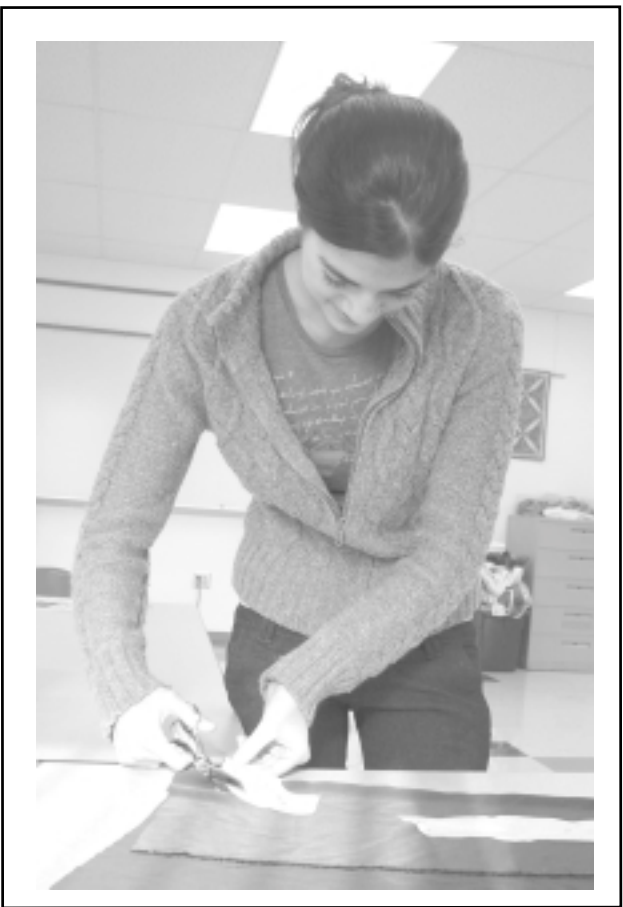
"It's really fun. It's almost like you know how some arts and crafts are, I don't know...therapeutic? It's kind of like that." Says junior, Anna Reed as she stitch-rips a cotton dress. Reed says that Clothing I is "the only class during my day that I don't have homework. I just come in and do my thing."

The girls, all stitch ripping and pinning. "You need help constantly," says junior Liz Madden.

Below: A cotton shift that Sarah Anderson has been working on. Anderson is hoping that "this dress will come together and I can wear it to school."



A selection of swatches and fabric textures from a student's interior design final.



"This class is good because it is very open. You can pick your own pattern or fabric piece. You get to pick what you want." - Senior Ashley Cox



Irons unused while sewers are busy pinning and stitch ripping.

F
E
A
T
U
R
E
S

December 9, 2008

WHEN SOLDIERS SLEEP THEY DREAM OF PEACE



Aillinn Connors

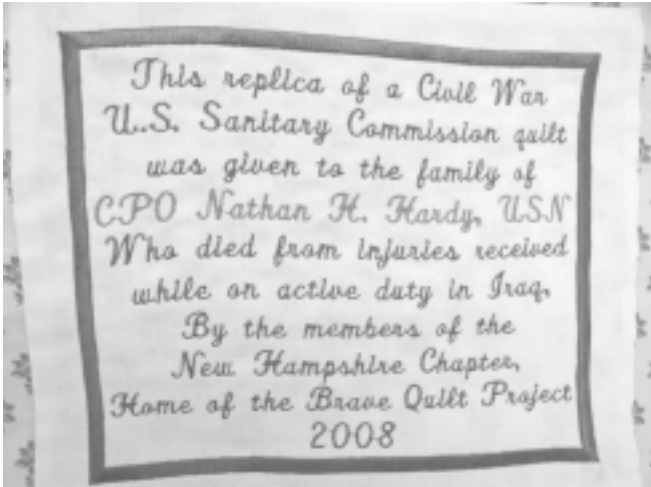
There weren't many dry eyes in Mrs. Kishbaugh's room once the quilt dedication to the Hardy boys had begun. Humor seemed to be the best remedy to painful moments of grief that one can only assume still feel very raw for the Hardy family, and much of it was shared on this drizzly afternoon.

"We knew people were going to be here, but we didn't know what was going on, so it was a surprise," said Mrs. Hardy, Nate Hardy's mother. As much of the Oyster River Community recalls, last year Nate Hardy was killed in combat. Hardy's younger brother Josh, also passed away from brain cancer in his senior year at Oyster River in 1993.

In memory of Nate and Josh, Kay Morgan, a former English teacher at OR who retired two years ago, steer-headed the New Hampshire Chapter Home of the Brave Quilt Project and worked alongside many quilter friends, including Mrs. Kishbaugh, to design and complete the quilts as authentic Civil War reproductions. The quilts took a little over a year to make. Instead of making one quilt to commemorate Nate Hardy, four were presented to the family, one for each son and the other for the Hardy's- as well as a detailed wall hanging. On the back of each quilt is a beautifully sewn dedication that states the authenticity of each quilt and certifies that it is indeed an authentic Civil War reproduction quilt.



Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Kishbaugh show Mrs. Hardy one of the quilts.



A dedication was sewn onto the back of each quilt.



Mr. and Mrs. Hardy admire the detail in the wall hanging sewn by Mrs. Morgan's daughter.

Submit to Lit!

Poetry

prose

Artwork

Young's

Restaurant & Coffee Shop

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

MON-FRI 6AM-2PM

SAT-SUN 6AM-2:30PM

SPECIALS

MONDAY:\$2 OFF ANY OMELETTE

TUESDAY: 2 FOR 1... 6AM-10:30AM

GOLD CARDS ACCEPTED

OFFER TAKE-OUT, CALL-INS

AND CATERING



Max Snelling

ADDICTS ANONYMOUS

They are among us. They eat with us, they sleep with us... (actually no they don't sleep with us...) and they go about living their lives somewhat like us, the only difference being they spend large parts of their day pinging their eyes with tiny photons from the screens that show Orcs, Undead, Dwarves, Humans, Blood Elves, Night Elves, and many other mythical races battling on massive manmade continents crafted from light and numbers.

These men and women are not part of a mass hallucinogenic vision, but instead are a part of a growing video game trend commonly referred to as MMORPG's, or Massively Multiplayer Online Role Play Games. In these games they are able to escape into a fantasy world and create their own avatar to wander the world with, completing quests and interacting with other players. The most popular of these games has become commonly known by the acronym WOW, but is actually called World of Warcraft. Its developer's website, Blizzard.com, now boasts 11 million subscribers to their game, worldwide. WOW, according to wikipedia.com, was originally released November 23, 2004, and has since then released two expansion sets, which increased their world size to include four continents, and their playable race count to 10 playable races.

Aside from WOW their have been a growing number of MMORPG's being placed on the market. The more popular of these are Lord of the Rings Online, Warhammer Online: Age of Reckoning, and Runescape. Ethan Hotchkiss, a Sophomore at Oyster River High School, and a self proclaimed videogame addict has just recently made the switch to Warhammer Online, after playing WOW "on and off" for over two years. He is of the mind that Warhammer is the superior game. "It has superior game play," says Hotchkiss, "I stared playing Warhammer on Saturday and I have already logged in about nine hours."

Many youth like Hotchkiss find themselves, as some would say, burning away their childhoods, but these youth don't see it that way, "It's no worse than any other hobby," says Trevor McMahon. And it isn't just youth who are playing the game, "I'd say about 50% of players on WOW are over the age of 25," claims Xander Bahl, a sophomore at ORHS.

Even one of the esteemed teachers of Oyster River High School has become a WOWER. Trevor Garman, a second year English teacher at ORHS plays WOW about 1-2 hours a day. "My favorite part is going through the instances with my buddies," Garman says. He also claims to have been a WOWER for four years, and even says he has fallen into minor moments of 'addiction' with the game in his long tenor as a WOWER. "It definitely is (a) waste of time," Garman admits, "but (it) is just as much a waste of time as watching a football game, which is something I don't do."

Even the female half of humanity has become fans of WOW. Gabby Brodeur, a Junior at ORHS, WOWed for about a year and a half, starting in her 8th grade year. "My favorite part was that it was so out of control," Brodeur says. Brodeur defends her heydays in the WOWing world by claiming, "It was not a waste of time back then. Now that I do sports it would probably be a waist, but I wasn't doing anything back then."

Still, some people remain negative to the MMORPG world. "People become obsessive with it, and it is a huge waste of teenage time," said senior Pat Monahan, a senior at ORHS. "It takes your money," said Thomas Forbes another senior at ORHS. "WOW sucks!" passionately declares Fred Meissner, another senior at ORHS. Many like Fred, Pat and Thomas find that the kids who spend their time on such games are foolish, and should live more in the real world than in the make-believe world of Warcraft or Warhammer.

The gamers, however, stand up for their hobby, "Don't judge if you haven't played," grumbles Xander Bahl, "If you actually sat down and play(ed) you'd enjoy it." In the end it remains up to the reader to decide whether playing these Massively Multiplayer Online Role Play Games is a huge waste of time, or whether it is a fun way to relax, and interact with other people.

WOW LINGO:

- Resto:** restoration, healing.
- Instances:** An area, usually a dungeon, where the game makes more than one copy of the dungeon so that several groups can explore the dungeon at the same time without overloading on characters in the dungeon.
- PvE:** Player vs. Environment. When a player battles anything in the game that is not controlled by another human character.
- PvP:** Player vs. Player. When two or more players battle against each other.
- NPCs:** Non-Player Characters. Characters in the game that are not run by a player, they can be many things, but on of the most common is a merchant of goods.
- Raids:** Most Instances only allow for 5 players to enter into the dungeon, but in a raid you can have a larger number of people in the dungeon.
- Guilds:** A united group of players who form a team to help each other level up, and can quickly form a raid group.

ORHS WORLD OF WARCRAFT
TOP CHARACTERS CHART:

- Gabby Brodeur: Level 65 Undead Warrior
- Mr. Garman: Level 70 Night Elf Warrior
- Trevor McMahon: Level 70 Human Paladin
- Xander Bahl: Tier 4 Level 70 Tauren Resto (Restoration) Shaman
- Ethan Hotchkiss: Level 65 Orc Hunter

NOTE: These pictures are **NOT** the actual characters of the people listed above, they are shown just to represent what the characters could look like. All images are courtesy of Google Images at <http://images.google.com/>



December 9, 2008



Ellen-Claire Slepian

WHY TECHNOLOGY IS THE BANE OF MY EXISTENCE

After a hard day in the field, you head back to the log cabin you live in with your ma, pa, and six brothers and sisters. You settle down at the table for a nice supper and you talk about the day. You discuss many things, ranging from your day at the schoolhouse to whether you should sell the hog. Just as your eldest sister Mary-Lou is about to start talking about the neighbor boy who has wooed her with the promise of a buggy ride, your cell phone rings.

Technology is stupid. And this is coming from someone who is definitely guilty of watching endless TV episodes online or on the TV while talking on the phone and texting. I have a lot of problems with our modern day world but technology is the front-runner, so here is a list of the top ten reasons I hate technology, with contributions from the ORHS community.

1. People walking together...while talking on cell phones: Ok, what the H-E-double-hockey-sticks people? One of the most annoying things I see is when I'm down town and I see two or more girls walking together, and all of them are on their cell phones. Why are you even walking together? Why don't you just make everyone happy and walk alone? And what if there is one of you that is not fortunate enough to have a friend to call? Then what? Then they are the loser of the group that's what. But, BUT because you guys are walking together there shouldn't be a loser in the group. So that's why cell phones are horrible.

2. People talking to you while listening to iPod's: This is just plain rude. I don't care how quietly you're listening to your music; you're still listening to it while talking to me. And then what is even worse is when the person is not participating in a group conversation AT ALL and they say, "What?" halfway through. Are you serious right now? Seriously? No way am I gonna catch you up on the conversation after you have been zoning out listening to your iPod the whole time.

3. It makes things impersonal: Mrs. Miale and Mrs. Richardson agree that technology is stupid. Mrs. Richardson is saddened by technology, "It's taking away the connections people have with one another, because people are always talking on phones or listening to iPods instead of communicating with each other." Mrs. Miale has a shorter, but no less affective way of putting it. "I just hate it all."

4. People who talk on the phone and IM at the same time: This slightly ties in with the iPod thing, because the outcome is the same. I really don't care what the person online is saying to you, or how uproariously funny it may be, I may have just told you I'm dying, or my cat is dying, or my donkey is dying, but you are too concentrated on your online friend to even care. And also, I can totally tell when you're doing it, so don't think you're Mr. Sneaky Pants, I can hear the dull clatter of the keyboard.

5. It Is Not Nearly as Reliable as a Pen and Pencil: The Memory Disk/Flash Drive has tried to lure me into buying it many a time, as have flash drive users, "It's so easy!" they cry, "So reliable." Well, you all should listen to the sad, sad story of one trusting Mr. Powell. "Technology is always crashing, this one time I had all my information on a flash drive and I plugged into my computer and it was all gone." Flash drives are not the only offenders of inexplicably getting rid of information. Last year during finals week Caitlin Olsen was updating her iPod when a storm cut out the power. When she turned her computer back on it had reset itself, with no memory of any of her information. Trevor McMahon lost 10 GB of music off of iTunes when his Mac crashed last year, his hard drive was only half full.

6. When you Spill Stuff on it, it Breaks: This is so annoying, I can't even explain it. I can't eat anything while on the computer because in the off chance that something spills, it has a heart attack, spazzes out and crashes. And last year my iPod got a little wet in the rain and it just shut down, never to wake up again. I had to get a new one! If I spill water on some paper it won't shut down on me, it might be smudged and, but it won't shut down!

7. It's Making People Stupider: There is so much to do after school these days, you can IM, Facebook, watch TV, look up things online. In fact there is so much to do that you don't really need to think about, no one is thinking anymore! The majority of people I know hate reading. Why? I would much rather read a book then watch TV. That's what people did after school in the olden days! I am a huge reader and not afraid to admit it. In fact, it's the reason why I kicked butt on Critical Reading on the SATs, it is proven that reading books or the newspaper you can dramatically increase your vocabulary. So read more! Who knows what madness could ensue!

8. It's Bad for the Environment: Technology doesn't last forever; in fact it barely lasts a couple years. So what happens when it breaks and you throw it away to get a new Computer/Plasma Screen/iPod? What happens to all those unnatural materials that are used to make your precious machines? They sit in a landfill somewhere poisoning our earth taking some ridiculous amount of time like 200 years or something to decompose.

9. You Become Dependiant on It: How many times have you been with a person and seen them constantly checking their phone, or just running over to the computer to check their email. My dad works with people who have absolutely everything in their Black Berries or Palm Pilots and flip out when they misplace them, how is this dependence on technology healthy in any way? It's not, in my humble opinion it creates mental instability and over dependence on an undependable object.

10. New Models Come out Every Five Seconds: WHAT A SCAM! How many times have you bought the super new, super cool iPod/Computer



Alexa Szilagyi tries to have a conversation with a distracted Sam Levesque.



Eliza Hill multi-tasks impressively

Technology continued on next page...

44 million people annually watch the Parade on T.V.

TECHNOLOGY CONT.

and then like, five days later after you've dropped 300 dollars, it comes out again...IN COLOR! AND FIFTY DOLLARS CHEAPER! And the worst part is that even as they are marketing the new fangled expensive, colored one they have the way cooler, cheaper one just waiting in the wings! So all the people that just got the crappy version, now feel the urge to go get another one! IT'S SUCH A SCAM! Let me repeat this one more time. WHAT. A. SCAM.

It's a love hate relationship, this relationship between technology and I. I can't condemn it, but I cannot condone it. So what I have to say is this; everything is better in small doses, and don't forget about the original blog... the book.



Ellen-Claire Slepian

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We started school on the 27 of August and then had the 29th off. In September we had Labor Day, and then October came. We had Columbus Day and the excitement of Halloween coming up. In November we had only had one full week of school, with Thanksgiving as the end of the month celebration. In December we have Christmas and Hanukkah. So what comes after the Holiday breaks? Unfortunately, not too much.

As we are ending the ending the first three months of school what lies ahead of us is a lengthy and empty stretch broken up only by February and Spring break. The first three months of school are a party. We have a lot of days off and Holidays all around. So as we approach the long haul until the end of school, with the long



Calvin and Wilson Kucera play in the snow!

months of winter ahead, don't give up! Though we may have endless weeks ahead of us, and little to break them up, make your own fun! We may not have official holidays, but who says you can't make up your own? Get some friends together and have an "Its Gross-Out Day!" and watch movies, and drink hot chocolate. To break up the dreary months have snow parties, sledding expeditions, trips to Boston, skating get-togethers, skiing trips, and the time will fly by! So don't give up hope as the long winter season approaches, instead get to planning! Stop moping and complaining and deal with it, we live in New Hampshire! I know that the majority of us are happy about the impending snow storms, but to those of you who aren't, get excited! Who knows what the winter will hold. And feel free to send in your winter activities to Mouth of the River! Room C-125.



A painting of a young child enjoying the winter activities by sledding courtesy of Google.com

BARRY R. WARREN CONTRACTING LLC

DRYWALL , PAINTING, & RENOVATION

4 BIRCH HILL ROAD
LEE, NH 03861

CELL: 603 799-4765
HOME: 603 659-6850
FAX: 603 292-5094

BARRY R WARREN
MANAGING MEMBER



Julie Peters

LOSING THE MAGIC - A PHOTO ESSAY

Christmas has always been my favorite holiday and many people (especially those between the ages of 3 and 10) share the same opinion. My favorite part of the holidays is the feeling that everyone puts effort into making everything more enjoyable for everyone else. People decorate their houses with lights and figures, many people decorate their cars or display their festive Christmas trees in their windows so passersby can see that house's symbol of the holiday.

As I've gotten older, though, I feel a little like I'm still six years old and everyone my age and older has, well, lost the magic of the holiday season. No matter what you celebrate, the holiday season is supposed to be about coming together as a community and most of all as a family. Instead, this year has been more about commercial interests than any sort of magical time of year. On Wednesday, November 26th, I got the newspaper and could not understand why the ads inside of it were not only way more significant than on any normal day, but accumulated to more than twice the size of the actual newspaper. I later realized they were in anticipation of Black Friday, the biggest shopping day of the year.

Many stores opened at 4, 5, or 6 in the morning (and some even at 12:00 Friday morning), leaving very little time in the evening for those who wanted to take advantage of the sales to enjoy with their family which is what Thanksgiving is supposed to be about. One of the biggest problems of this year is that the economy is in the worst condition since the 1930s and the Great Depression. Stores were offering sales that promised customers would save money and it's no lie that they did. The problem lies in that people are gaining money by other means once they have customers through the door. At the mall, children line up to get their picture taken with Santa Claus and then they are charged for the picture.

The question I pose to all of you is this: are we losing the holidays to capitalism? Christmas is more commercialized and also more common than Hanukkah in our country but they are both supposed to be based on family, love, and expressing your appreciation for what you have. This year it's about saving as much money as you can while buying holiday themed gifts that symbolize what we can no longer express in any other way. A man in Long Island died at Wal-Mart because the crowd, anxious to get inside and buy items at their "always low prices," trampled him. I bet his family won't have a great Christmas this year. Where's the real Christmas? What happened to the real holidays? When did become okay to take someone's life because you are too impatient to buy the new Guitar Hero? This photo essay compares the commercialized Christmas with the traditional and how the line between the two is blurred.



Early Christmas lights



Black Friday ads from *one* newspaper





Wal-Mart's holiday spread



O
P
-
E
D

December 9, 2008

ORHS LOOK-A-LIKES/RELATIVES:

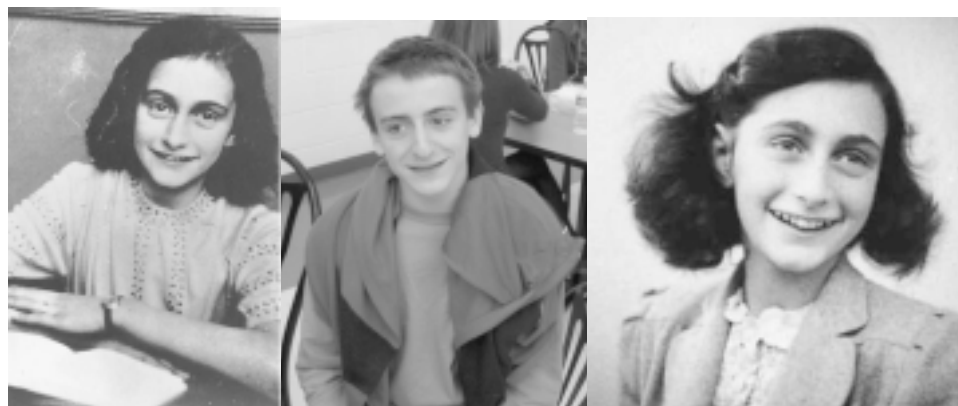
HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED A MEMBER OF OYSTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL HOWLING AT A FULL MOON? SWIMMING AT INHUMAN SPEEDS? SNACKING ON BAMBOO? WELL IT TURNS OUT THAT MANY OF THE STUDENTS AMONG US LOOK AS THOUGH THEY ARE (OR ARE RELATED) TO FAMOUS MAGICAL PEOPLE AND CREATURES.

Aaron Moss/ the Wolfman: During the day Mr. Moss just looks like a crazy lumber jack, but at night, with a full moon over head, he transforms into the frightening creature we know as the wolfman.



Yang Yang Jing/ a Panda Bear: While the panda bear is not yet mythical, it will be fairly soon when they become extinct, but I have reason to believe that this panda bear will outlive all his brethren. It is also rumored that Yang Yang isn't just any panda bear, and that he actually is the secret identity of the action hero Agent Panda.

Michelle Hobbs/ an Elf: Michelle is actually the third cousin to Arwen of Rivendell, and personally met Frodo and Bilbo on their visits to Rivendell.



Peter Krumpe/ Anne Frank: As can be seen by the picture, Anne and Peter share many of the same features, and it has been rumored that Peter also keeps a diary about his life's events.

Jack Starbranch/ the Lord of the Undead: Jack Starbranch is actually just the Lord's secret identities name. The Lord possesses a large plethora of dark energy, which he can focus and devastate his enemies. He has also been known to damn peoples' soul's, and turn-off lights with his mind...

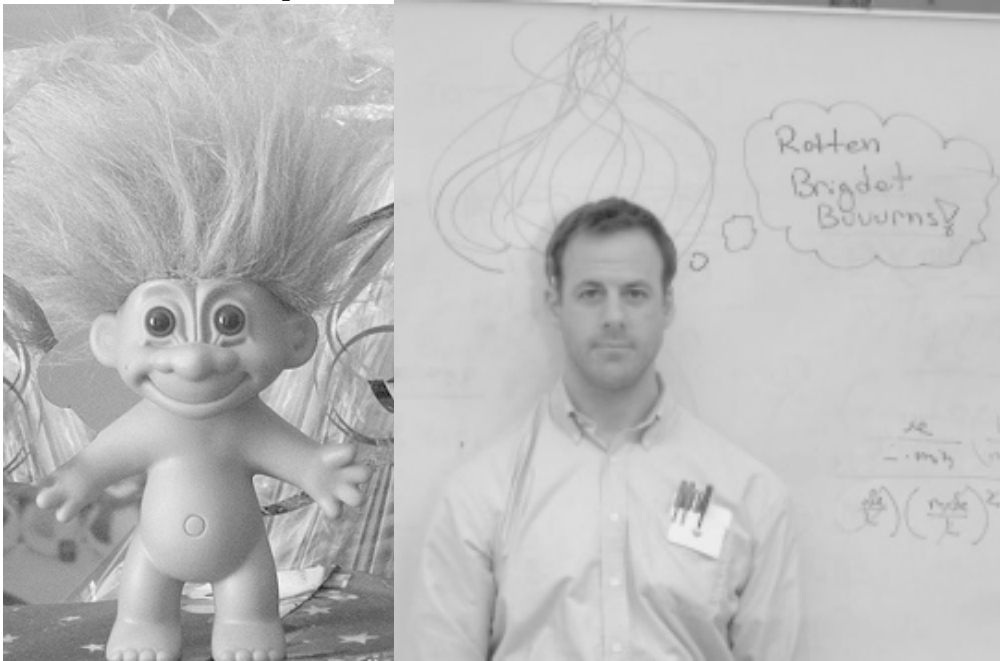


ALL IMAGES NOT TAKEN IN THE SCHOOL ARE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES AT [HTTP://IMAGES.GOOGLE.COM/](http://images.google.com/)

Mr. Baker/ a Troll Doll: Aside from all his other moonlighting activities, Mr. Baker also likes to spend time on the shelf as a troll doll with onion-shaped hair.



Martin Wilkinson/ a Yeti: As can be seen by the picture, Martin bears a sticking resemblance to the famous big foot in the Patterson film. But on closer investigation it was discovered that the Bigfoot shot in that film was actually a distant relative to Martin's yeti family.



Matt Webber/Michael Phelps Michael Phelps is not a real person, and I won't believe that he is one till I meet him in person. The Michael Phelps creature, however, is real and he lives in Oyster River High School as the docile Matt Webber. Sure, he might appear like a simple man, but he can still beat anyone in the school by 70 seconds in 400m, individual medley.



Owen Chalmers/ a zombie: This isn't really a surprise, but Owen was risen from the dead back in 1991, and has been sucking the brains out of innocent victims ever since. In short, ladies, don't accept dates from Owen, he'll suck your brains out...



Rob Lane/ Dwight Shrute: Yes, it is true. Rob Lane is actually the infamous Dwight Shrute. He disguises himself in an anti-superman way by not wearing glasses, and tussling his hair, but underneath his calm demeanor he hides 'The Offices' most dangerous employee.



O
P
-
E
D

December 9, 2008

THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CONQUERED...OUR HEARTS OF COURSE.

I heard whispering and gossip and "oh look at his hair!" I even joined in and talked secretly about them. That is, until I had time to talk to them. New things don't come quite often. So of course, when the thirteen mysterious teenagers appeared in our school one day, people got crazy and interested. People whispered and wondered and noted on their fabulous choice of clothing and hairstyle. Many decided not to reach out to them. However, there were a few of us who actually made the effort talk to them and find out they were interesting people: The Russians.



Martha Kobus



The group of Russian students with their two teachers ready to head home.

The Russians appeared in our school on November 3rd. They stayed with student hosts from Oyster River High School. They stayed around until November 12th. There were thirteen of them, usually wandering about the school with their hosts and attending classes. They held presentations for some of the classes, trying to educate the Oyster Riverians about their culture and life.

I had heard some unpleasant things regarding the Russian exchange in our school. A lot of the slander was based on generalizations and assumptions that the government and the people were one and the same. I have to admit, I was skeptical as well. However that all changed when I had the chance to sit in one room with most of them and see the Russian teenagers for who they really were. What follows is what emerged from the conversation.

The Russians felt that we could learn from Russia, and Russia could learn from the US. Many Oyster Riverians act like they know everything there is to know about Russia. "This is the problem: there are problems [between our governments] and not the people. America has good people. There are just stereotypes. [Americans think] Russians drink vodka all of the time etc.," says an insightful and opinionated Sasha Zherlitsyn.... The group agrees. "It would be nice if they knew more about the Russian culture and traditions. Russian language as well. Why not? They should be taught Russian games, words and songs! Russians can teach you to be more open!"

So what can America teach Russia? Such was the general consensus from the beginning of my interview. "Americans care more about politics and volunteers. American people don't know who will win their elections and that's why it's more exciting," Sasha reflects on the evening when he was at his host's home, watching the elections. Loren Couse, Sasha and Jenya Novikova's host, had been a volunteer at the Democratic office. "The last night during the elections, my host was watching TV...Obama was winning. He watched it online too and they got crazy and were jumping and screaming."

The elections were something extraordinary for the Russians. They experienced a whole new stage of euphoria and stress. It was the election that was going to make history, and they were here to watch it. "A lot of people don't go to elections because in Russia, there is only one candidate. Everyone knows who is going to win. What's the sense in volunteering?" The Russians felt that the US elections were far better and fairer. No one really knew who was going to win. Our world is a different side of the spectrum. "It's good for me to be in another culture. I got some experience in a different country and I understand how I must behave. My first day I didn't understand. In the first days I couldn't speak and now I feel more confident," Sasha explains. "I feel if I have the opportunity to go again (and maybe forever) I will. I love this country. I like how Americans have total control with a government of the people."



Lena Semenikhina and her last moment with her host mother.



Many said they felt that this trip to America was the trip of a lifetime. They agreed that the exchange program makes people closer. "I want to keep the program going and to improve relationship. Make new friends and I learned how. It's fun." Sasha is very sad that he won't be able to come to America again since he is in his last year of high school in Russia. But going to America wasn't a first for all of them. "It's my second trip to America. My first trip I understood I needed to be more social. After trip to America, I understood it's important for American teens to belong to community. They have more respect," explains Jenya.

But it wasn't all fun and games for the Russians. They had to go to sleep! Sasha explains, "In America, I can't do everything. I want to meet with my friends in Russia and they'll organize a party. In America, our day is full. In Russia, when we go home from school we think what we can do and then go do it. I want to walk with my friends, I will. But here, I can't. I have to go to sleep." Lena Semenikhina thinks, "It's because it's a program. We have to do things with our hosts. We can't



Saying Goodbye

Mouth of the River

do things we want and when we want to do them. We're not free."

"In America, people are more polite and more understanding. They're more friendly," Sasha explains his thoughts on the matter. One of his teachers, Irina Shirina, agrees. "They want to bring it home. They behave differently and they are more open. People here say hi and hello. That's not in our tradition." She goes on to explain that they'll "take back the attitude of people to the government back home. How you respect your country. We have watched your traditions and your food and we can compare. We also have perfect food and our traditions that we are proud of. It comes back to the attitude of our own country. It's important how we can compare what we have in our country. We learn to value the things we have. We gain experience."

Not only did they gain experience and were enlightened about who they were, but they also learned more about our everyday life and family relationships. "I like that in America, family relationships are very good. Everyday they ask 'what did you do today?' They care about each other. In

my family all day my parents are very busy. I see them in the morning and late at night. They are very tired and cannot talk too much. We spend our time as a family just on the weekend. Weekdays I don't see them often," muses Sasha. Angelina Nikitina experiences the same problem; "I don't see my parents often. On weekends we try to be together, but we don't have that much time together." Katya Kubarko explains, "I spend a lot of time with my parents. We go to the cinema and walk in the city. We visit my grandparents." Lena explains, "My relationship with my mom is not worse than yours."

These Russians didn't only sit around with their host families in Durham, NH. They took a trip to the Concord State house to learn about the New Hampshire government and then they also took a trip to Boston. Their hosts took them all over the place, and they were obviously grateful for the attention they were given and the opportunity to learn and go on an adventure.

Lena cries out, overjoyed, "I like this trip! So many experiences! Impressions! And a lot of new clothes!" Everyone claps



and cheers, agreeing with her immensely. Sasha exclaims, "I love this country! I love America!" They are not the only people who love this trip Loren Couse, one of the hosts, had wonderful things to say, "The Russian exchange is one of my favorite programs and it has made some of the best memories for me. I feel as if I know my Russian guests just as well, maybe even better, than some of my closest friends. There is a more personal connection there. When you live with someone for two weeks, you get to know them as more than friends, they become more like family. When they left it was as if my best friends had just moved to a foreign country and I would likely never see them again. I have so many good things to say about the program, if not all things good to say about the program. What really completes it are the people".

There was a trip scheduled for several ORHS students to go to Novgorod, Russia in April 2009. But the trip was cancelled on a mutual agreement. But those of you, who are not graduating this year, do not fret! The program is still on; it is just taking a year off. There are more Russians also coming from Severodvinsk, Russia from March 2nd - 13th 2009. It's a renovation of a broken relationship ORHS is trying to mend.

So let's actually think positively about these amazing people who took us on a wonderful two week ride and support the Russian Exchange Program. This is really a once in a lifetime chance. I suggest you take it. You won't know what hit you.



Russians with Hosts

O
P
-
E
D

GOT MILK?



Bobcat with a milk mustache.



Martha Kobus

Everywhere I go, I feel like someone is attempting to brainwash me into becoming some authority-fearing and trusting civilian. Someone wants me to follow the "right" way, which, is in fact, only just their way. Whenever I tell someone that I believe milk is bad for them, they get defensive and try to explain themselves. But in truth, how much do you all really know? I hear so much about drinking three glasses of milk a day and you'll have strong bones. Or drink milk because it's good for you. Drink milk because, there are posters telling you to do so! Good job being brainwashed.

Three glasses a day is the healthy dose. I think that's extreme. My mother uses this nice little motto: Everything in moderation. If you're drinking three glasses a day, that must mean that you're eating a boatload of food all day just to keep to the necessary "diet". But that doesn't matter really, because even if you eat everything in moderation, that was good a long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Milk nowadays is no longer beneficial. Frankly, it's quite the opposite.

People drink milk to get "strong bones". They try to fend off osteoporosis with their three glasses of milk. Well guess what? The US has the highest consumption of dairy in the world, and yet, we also have the highest rate of Osteoporosis according to the Nutrition Action Healthletter, June, 1993. How does that sound for strong bones? Hmm? If that's not enough, then this should be:

Disgusting much?: -Cows milk is infected with 59 active hormones, plus fat and cholesterol (I only added fat and cholesterol because people are so obsessed with it. But seriously, if you all ate properly there would be no need to watch out for such things).

-Cows are also full of herbicides, pesticides, dioxins (basically a toxin), and around 52 antibiotics. Not to mention, ew, blood, pus, feces, bacteria, and viruses. I would just like to say, health officials tell us to boil tap water @ 212 degrees F for several minutes to sanitize it. How about milk? It's pasteurized @ 162 degrees F for only 15 seconds for a couple of times.

-Pus. Get ready to barf. One cubic centimeter of cow's milk is allowed to have up to 750,000 pus cells and 20,000 live bacteria before it gets the boot. This means that for one liter of milk, there will be 750 million pus cells and 20 million bacteria cells in your milk. How's that for DISGUSTING?

Healthy? I Think Not: -Tell me, where do cows get the calcium to transfer into their milk? Oh my, it didn't even cross your thoughts, did it? Those greens you've been avoiding provide magnesium, which allows the body to absorb and use calcium. Cow's milk calcium is useless without the magnesium in it. Just a thought: Vegetarians only need about 50% of the calcium than that of a dairy eater.

-Protein. Oh yes. The protein is a major factor of health. Milk is high in protein, which actually prevents the body from absorbing calcium. Countries with high protein diets, once again, have the highest rates of osteoporosis (site).

-Milk has been linked to ear infections in young children, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, infertility, and leukemia according to notmilk.com

So there it is. All the information in the world that would at least make any smart person think twice before eating that tub of ice cream. As for me, my conscience is clear, and I'll try my best to someday refrain from saying "I told you so" when something happens linked to the data I've given you.

If you are compelled to know more, take a look at these sites:

<http://www.notmilk.com/>

<http://www.preventcancer.com/consumers/general/milk.htm>

<http://www.milksucks.com/>



Martha Kobus

ATTENTION! WARNING!

This is not a real article. This is a warning. This is for you Seniors.

College is looming ahead for most of us. That means college essays, applications, acceptance and rejection letters and, what's worse, loans. Money is a big enough problem for those of us who will be off to college soon. But let me reassure you, it's going to get worse. A lot worse.

The current unemployment rate is at 6.5% and according to the national debt clock (http://brillig.com/debt_clock/) at the time this article was written, the national debt surmounted to \$ 10,665,001,894,162.16 . That's quite a hefty amount, don't you think? But that's not the worst of it! Our economy is going down the drain and it's not going to get better for quite some time. So what are the poor college-bound students supposed to do? I say plant a money making tree. Those would make some good investments and money will always be at hand (except during late fall and winter months).

In all seriousness though, what should you do? For those of you who have worked hard and earned great grades throughout your high school career, it will soon be time for you to start applying for scholarships. Sports star Jill Friel was accepted into UNH with a full scholarship on the basis of her amazing skills. Those of you who have no hope of getting a scholarship need to be wise with your loans and should apply for financial aid.

But loans are getting scary. They look like those dark, shadowy monsters that hide under your bed in children's books. I don't have the answers, but they're out there somewhere folks. There are plenty of ways to lower your college burden. But don't put that off for last minute just like some of you have with your college applications. This is risky business and it's time to get searching for some hope.



Logo from www.ed.gov



Logo from www.collegeboard.com



Ellen-Claire Slepian

THE MOST UNDERRATED TV SHOWS

I was completely outraged, disgusted, and freaked out as I watched the kiss that shocked millions on my TV a couple weeks ago. I couldn't believe that 18 year old Nate Archibald actually kissed 15 year old Jenny! I mean, the Humphrey family welcomed him in after his family was found guilty of something by the IRS and this is how he repaid them? By macking on his "friend's" younger sister? Outrageous!

Have no idea what I'm talking about? Unfortunate. Gossip Girl is one of the many underrated TV shows that I find to have a good mix of entertaining plots, morals and pizzazz. But whenever I try to make conversation with someone by starting out with, "Hey did you see Gossip Girl?" more times then not I get a snort, a judging glance and a cutting remark such as, "Are you serious?" Why? What's wrong with Gossip Girl? And other fantastic TV shows such as The Girls Next Door, Wife Swap, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, The Hills, the new 90210, Samantha Who, Notes from the Underbelly (before it got canceled), One Tree Hill, and of course Gossip Girl. Why do these shows more then any other deserve your quick remarks and "better than thou" looks? Have you ever watched them? I believe that if you took a little time out of your lives to watch one of these shows your lives would be greatly enriched by the diversity displayed in these shows.



The Cast of Gossip Girl poses in NYC
courtesy of google images

on a show that has addictive qualities? They must be doing something right! With its endless twists and screwed up plot and scandalous themes Gossip Girl has hit a genre that hasn't been dealt with since the original 90210 went off the air. It never claimed to be award winning or good, but it draws viewers and critics alike to give it good reviews all around. Gossip Girl teaches important lessons. For instance, don't sleep with your ex-boyfriend-who-you're-still-in-love-with best friend, don't do drugs, don't cheat, and my all time favorite, don't lie, because it's considered a cardinal sin. (For more on other cardinal sins see Julie Peters' article) What could possibly be bad about a show like this that has definite lessons planned into every episode?

And who could forget the Girls Next Door? Girlfriends of Hugh Hefner (or Hef to those of us in the know) Kendra, Holly and Bridget quickly hopped their playmate selves into my heart after I saw an especially touching episode. In all photo shoots for Playboy the themes are chosen ahead of time and the models are just told what to do. But these girls decided to take charge and try to choose their own theme!! Kendra, the tomboy of the three, chose to be a football player, while Holly wanted to be Marilyn Monroe, and Bridget was the object of King Kong's affections. They each spent time trying to convince Hef of why they should be able to choose their own photo shoot, and when he approved their ideas my heart swelled with pride, they had accomplished their goal! Even the most cynical heart would melt watching the joy on these girls' faces as they planned out the shoot. By watching this show you see that joy can be brought out by the littlest of things, from planning your own photo shoot to organizing a new gym, The Girls Next Door is sweet and innocent despite its location.

There are so many shows that have had the unfortunate luck in life to have been dealt the "bad TV" hand, but all I have to say about that is this. Try watching them! On a Monday night instead of watching C-Span, or Law and Order, switch to the CW and catch an episode of Gossip Girl, and then later an episode of One Tree Hill. Who knows, you might enjoy them!

Kara Henn is an enthusiastic watcher of One Tree Hill and is used to getting the comments regarding her love of this fabulous TV show. When asked why exactly she loved the show so much she started talking right away, using the defensive voice of those who have been hurt many times before. "It's the same reason people love Gossip Girl, interesting relatable characters, it's like a more interesting g version of my life! It's one of those things where you're like, 'well, my life is boring, but at least no one is stalking and killing me!' It has interesting plot lines and characters, plus hot boys."

Martha Kobus is a critical person. She has no patience for stupid people, stupid actions, or I guess in general, stupidity. A secret side to Martha? She has recently become hooked on one of TV's best new shows, Gossip Girl. "It's addictive," she confesses. "Bad acting and kind of obnoxious, but simultaneously addictive!"

Though I do not agree with the obnoxious part, I have to say, can one really look down



Kendra, Holly and Bridget pose
in front of the Playboy mansion.
courtesy of google images

My Favorite Show's Schedule

Sunday:	ABC:	
El:	9:30-Samantha Who?	
10-The Girls Next Door	MTV:	Friday:
Monday:	10-The Hills	ABC:
CW:	Tuesday:	8-Wife Swap
8-Gossip Girl	CW:	
9- One Tree Hill	8-90210	

O
P
-
E
D

December 9, 2008

YOU JUST VIOLATED CARDINAL SIN #1



Julie Peters

High school. Most of us come from the middle school where we spend every class with our own little section of kids. We're on teams, we have pods; it's about teamwork and staying together. When you're plunged into high school, we have our own schedules and have a class with one of our friends only if we're lucky. So when we see our friends in our five minutes between our classes, it's expected and almost unavoidable that we become excited and try to get as much out of those precious social minutes as possible.

But seriously, people. Get out of the middle of the hallway.

I'm talking specifically about the first floor sophomore hallway. It is absolutely impossible to walk through that hall without dodging or hitting people. Walking through the hallways is the most infuriating part of my day, which is definitely saying something.

Sophomores are between fifteen and sixteen years old. I have no sympathy for fifteen year olds who haven't yet mastered the concept of walking and the basic logic of a busy hallway. When you are walking in any hallway between classes, it is almost a given that there are people behind you. When you stop dead in your tracks, you will cause a jam of some sort and you will make people (i.e. me) angry.

I fully support socialization between classes (I talk to my friends too) but standing in the exact middle of the hallway is one of the stupidest things you can do. Stand right next to your locker or flat against the opposite wall or, and this is such a crazy idea that I don't even know why I'm suggesting it, you could just walk to your next class with your friends.

Not only is blocking the hallways obnoxious and illogical, but it's sincerely inconvenient. My personal schedule makes it necessary for me to attend class on the third floor, then first, third, first, third, then first. It takes time to get from there to my locker and back but it is very do-able. However if a friend needs to ask me something between classes in the core, it takes another second. After that, I pretty much need to run to class. Running through the sophomore hallway is one of the most laughable concepts I could think of; it's completely impossible.

Here's how it goes:

9:20:00AM: The bell rings, signaling the end of B period.

9:20:10 AM: I grab my backpack, turn on my iPod, and leave Mr. Lord's room.

9:20:34 AM: I arrive at my locker and throw in my French book and binder then grab my folder for The 60's.

9:21:18 AM: I turn around to head to class, but one of my friends bombards me with her awful sob story about how she got one hour of sleep and didn't get any of her homework done because her boyfriend said he didn't like her new haircut!! I console her while trying to subtly move away, needing to get to class.

9:22:54 AM: I walk down the hall and see the impending sophomore hallway. There are clusters of tenth graders everywhere with no straight path to the other side. I take a deep breath and start walking.

9:23:10 AM: I meet my first obstacle. A girl closes her locker and turns around. She starts walking without looking and I'm forced to put on the brakes so I don't collide with her.

9:23:30 AM: She sees a group of her friends and stops in her place. I quickly determine an alternate route but find some resistance there as well.

9:24:00 AM: With forty seconds until the bell, I realize I have no choice but to just walk and push. I can't be late for The 60's.

9:24:13 AM: I accidentally hit a sophomore girl who turns to glare at me, causing further delay. Seriously, it was an accident.

9:24:37 AM: I finally break free and I have twenty-three seconds to get to class. I sprint up the stairs and miraculously fall into my chair with one second remaining.

It was close, but I made it. This time.

I once confronted a repeat offender of this atrocity, Sophomore Eryn Daly.

"You're blocking the hallway," I said politely. "Can you move, please?"

"No. It's my hallway; I can block it if I want," she replied. Attitude. Sheesh. Since then, Eryn and I have made our peace, but we still have the continuous strain of our past disagreement about the nature of "her" hallway. Later, I asked her what her feelings are about blocking the hallway. "I feel kind of bad when I block upperclassmen - wait what am I saying? I don't feel bad at all." Awesome.

Senior Emily Tong agrees with me (as she should). She said, "They block the hall ALL THE TIME!" She wanted me to specifically include the emphasis that the capital letters indicated. She continued, "It's so annoying. It's like, 'Get out of the way!!' They crowd around the water fountain like it's nobody's business."

I realize that it's possible that maybe none of the sophomores have yet realized exactly how annoying they are when this happens and perhaps haven't heard the many loud exclamations I have made at various times throughout the year. But fret no more, sophomores, for I have now educated you. Please do not block the hallway. It's more annoying than you realize.



Sophomore Hallway Congestion



Girls enjoying their daily chat in the middle of the hallway

O
P
-
E
D

TASTE THE RAINBOW



Julie Peters

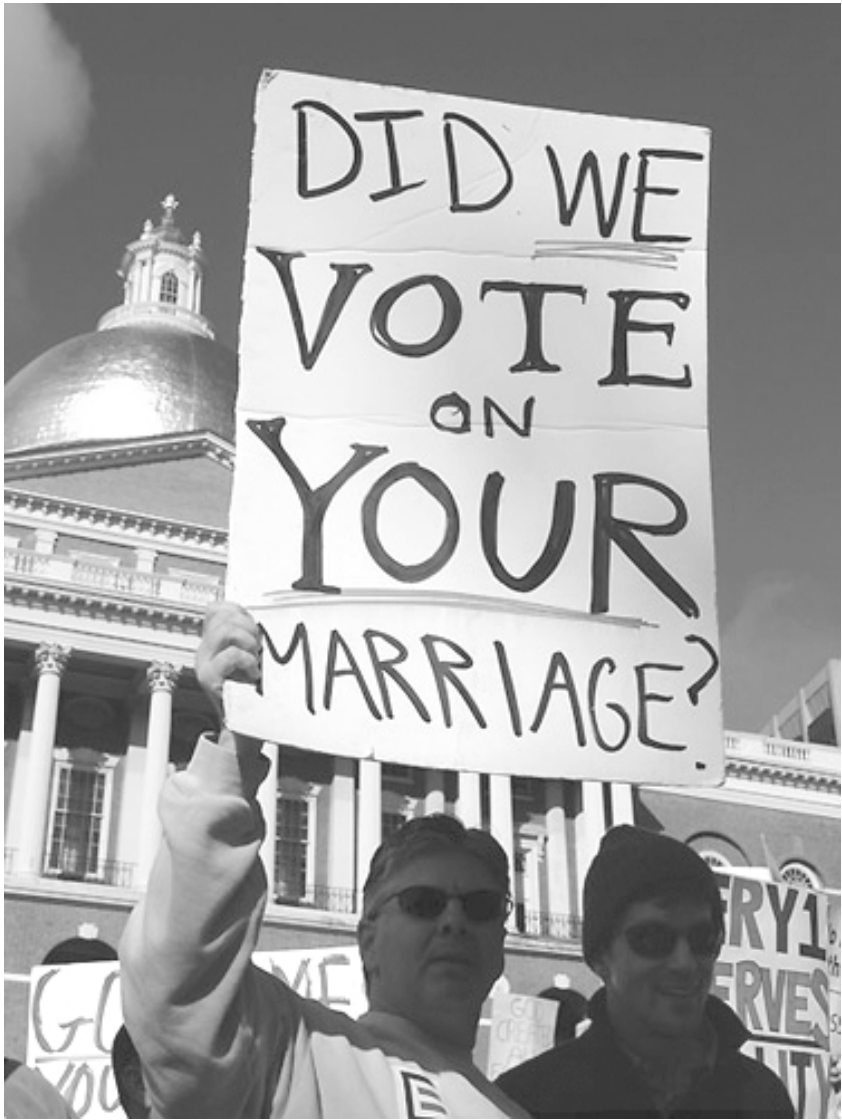
Your wedding day. It's the happiest day of your life. You've waited for this day for years and years. You know the man standing across from you is your soul mate and you will spend the rest of your life with him. Just as the ceremony is about to start, the justice of the peace reaches into his pocket, pulls out a vibrating cell phone, and answers it. He freezes, says a few things, and hangs up. He then announces that you have to close everything down, the wedding can't happen because it was just announced that Proposition 8 was passed in your state (California - we're role playing) and gay marriage is no longer legal. The best day of your life was just ruined, the best day of your life was just deemed illegal. Would you be devastated? I would.

In May of this year, the California state Supreme Court overturned a ban on same-sex marriage. Gay couples raced to California churches and 24-hour chapels to fulfill their lifelong dream of getting married to the person they love; close to 18,000 same-sex marriage took place after the removal of the ban. However at the November elections, the people of California voted to pass Proposition 8, thus nullifying the overturn of the ban, and putting the ban back in place. Proposition 8 was a proposed amendment to the California constitution that changed the law to allow marriage only between a man and a woman. Proposition 8 got a lot of support from African American voters who turned out in droves to vote for Obama. The state's Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case appealing Proposition 8 and that case is currently pending.

At the moment, it is unsure whether the thousands of marriages that took place in those six months will be recognized or if they will turn out to be null, however Proposition 8 states that only a marriage between a man and a woman is recognized in the state of California, implying that the marriages will not be considered legitimate. Another option is that the marriages will be considered domestic partnerships which, in California, give couples similar rights as a marriage does.

This issue was stirred up in our own state last year when Governor Lynch signed a bill allowing civil unions in New Hampshire. Many people see civil unions as a big improvement and a suitable alternative to marriage. I do not share that opinion. I believe that marriage should be between two humans who love each other regardless of sex or sexual orientation. Governor Lynch opposes same-sex marriage and does not plan to pass any legislation during his term to allow same-sex marriage in our state.

Propaganda supporting Proposition 8 which "protects marriage" by keeping it between a man and a woman - Photo courtesy of themittblog.com



Gay marriage supporters - Photo courtesy of jewishjournal.com

Senior Samantha Bagdon shares my opinion. "It's stupid to not allow people to get married if they want to. I know a lot of gay people and they deserve to make the choice to be married. They're not different than the rest of us."

The biggest argument against gay marriage is that marriage should be between a man and a woman to protect the sanctity of marriage. In the U.S., marriage is supposed to be a lifelong commitment of love and devotion. I can think of no better way to protect the sanctity of this union and this ideal than to allow homosexuals to marry, many of whom have fought for a very, very long time for this right. To me, this proves a deeper love and a deeper connection.

Another argument I have heard is that homosexual couples are going to get married just to receive health insurance and other benefits privy to married couples.

This could happen, I won't argue that, but how many heterosexual couples are married for convenience or for money with little or no feeling of love? A lot.

My biggest complaint is that marriage is a personal issue that should not concern other people. A California citizen, Rae, has strong views on this. "I feel that marriage between gays and heterosexuals is not the government's business...In today's world we are so conditioned to having the government in our business that it has not occurred to most of us that it could be any other way," she said. "Go be free!"

*"Go be free!"
- Rae*

Despite this dependency on the government, Rae believes that gay marriage will be nationally legalized soon enough and it has already begun. As most of us know, same-sex marriage began in 2004 and was just recently legalized in Connecticut. In our neighboring state of Maine, voters were approached on Election Day with a petition to draft a bill allowing gay marriage.

I believe it's only a matter of time when the world realizes that we are ready to get out of the personal choices of millions of people in our country. It shouldn't be okay for us to vote on how others live as long as it is not an imminent danger to how we live our own lives.

O
P
-
E
D



Hannah Allen

F.B.F.F
(FACEBOOK FRIENDS FOREVER)

If you have a facebook, you are destined to get at least one friend request that you are skeptical about accepting. People who you never talk to anymore, people that you don't like, people you don't know... A few weeks ago I received a request from someone, and I wasn't sure if I should accept it; Sara Wotton, our Assistant Principal had requested my Facebook Friendship. I'm tight with Wotton, I'm always in her office helping with Interact and sometimes just to chat, I've even babysat for her kids, but I wasn't sure if it was really appropriate for us to be friends on Facebook.

For those of you who don't know what Facebook is, heres a little definition. Facebook is a social network that allows people to stay in touch with each other with online profiles (kind of like myspace). Facebook started out for college students and college graduates to keep in contact with old friends. Now anyone in high school or older can make an account, students, parents, and even grandparents can have one. These accounts allow members to have their own page and post pictures, and various information about them-

selves. Some faculty members have a strict policy about being friends with students on facebook. "I don't have anyone in high school as a friend," say Nick Ricciardi a special education aide at Oyster River. "It's a no friend policy. Just 'cause there is no reason for it."

Other faculty members however don't have the same views as Ricciardi. Wotton got sucked into the facebook trend a few weeks ago when one of her friends sent her an e-mail telling her she should get an account. "It's a social networking tool. It's out there, it's public," Wotton explains. "It's not like I'm calling you up on the phone, it's less creepy."

At first when I became friends with Ms. Wotton I was a little worried about what would happen, and what people would think. I had multiple people ask me why I was friends with her, and the more people said the more I got worried about being her friend. But when I sat down to talk with Ms. Wotton about her thoughts on students being friends with faculty members she made some points that really made me think about how not creepy it was.

There are students who baby-sit for teachers during high school and even out of high school. I've been to teacher's houses and have seen their life outside of school. I've been to Ms. Wotton's house and taken care of her children, I know where she lives, what her house looks like and most of all I know she doesn't have this secret life that she is hiding from everyone else.

"I'm friends with Ms. Wotton on facebook too," explains Laura Dow a junior. "I don't think it matters at all, I hang out in her office all the time during my free periods and lunch," Dow explains.

In fact, there are things that I find way more uncomfortable then being Facebook friends with a teacher. Faculty members are able to go onto edline and retrieve any student's e-mail address, home address, birth date, class folders, grades and other various things that I thought, until now, were completely personal. Facebook for the most part is a public thing, of course there are messages that can be sent that are private, but that is no different then receiving an e-mail through Yahoo, or Comcast.

"Teachers have my e-mail address, so why can't they contact me through Facebook without it being totally weird?" Dow asks.

The more I dwelled on the topic of being friends with faculty members, the more I realized that it's not the huge deal people make it. As long as both people are comfortable with the situation nobody else should really care. My mom even thinks it's okay with me being friends with a faculty member as long as there is no school policy against it.

So, I guess what I am trying to say is, yes it does seem weird at first to be friends with faculty members. But I do believe that if you know them well, and are comfortable with them knowing what you put on your Facebook page then it's not really a huge deal. I no longer think that it's a big deal being friends with Ms. Wotton on Facebook. She doesn't send me creepy things through my page, or anything like that and my parents aren't worried about it either. So what the big deal?

"It's not like I'm calling you up on the phone."
-Sara Wotton

OVERHEARDS

“I’m sorry, were they serving crack in the cafeteria?”- Mr. Whalen.

“I don’t know if we want to mess with white supremacists.” - Nate Hoff

“Remember that guy you told me to creep on?” - Bridget Burns

“He’s pushing so hard it’s like he’s having a baby.” - Amaryth Gass

“Are you a fugitive from the law?” -Max Snelling
“Not in New Hampshire” -Mr. Covey

“That baby looks nice on you” - Mr. Jasinski

“Cut it out with the ‘Dawg,’” - Mr. Whalen
“Okay, Kittycat,” - Jake Gross
“Only call me that when we’re alone,” -Mr. Whalen

“I didn’t feel anything the first time, but the second time I was like ‘ohhhhh” - Gabe Dorfsman-Hopkins

“Is Kentucky a country?” -Laura Dow

“Put that in Mr. Brewer’s pipe and smoke it!” - Mr. Pappas

“That’s OK as long as you don’t procreate!” -Mrs. Rogers

BRAWL! - ROE V. WADE REVISITED



Amaryth Gass

In Romania an 11-year old girl was denied an abortion and became a mother when she was in fifth grade.
Is this a situation we want to happen in America? Michael Noronha does.
Before continuing this article, it seems appropriate to specify our "definition" of abortion. After much debate, it was concluded that even using the "morn-

ing-after pill" is included as abortion. Currently, in most states, an abortion is allowed if a woman is 18 or older without a parent's approval. And this only applies if the woman is before her third trimester.

Having a baby is an enormous change in a woman's life. Many things lead to unwanted pregnancy. People are under pressure, passionate about the decision (but not really ready for the choice), under the influence, or just stupid. They have unprotected sex when they do not think about the consequences and changes that bring a human into this world. But restricting them to a point where they are legally required to have a baby, when they don't want one, is against the whole principle that America was founded on. The principle that says the American people can (to an extent) practice any religion, say whatever they want, and share their opinion.

Also, the number of women whose health would be put at risk must be put into consideration. Should a person who has a family, life, and future put on the same level as a fetus that is not even born yet?

The physiological and emotional effect that being pregnant and giving birth is detrimental to a woman. Even if they are accepting of the fact they will be a mother, when the pregnancy was not planned, there will still be some subconscious feelings discriminating the child. Yes, they will be loved and accepted, but knowing you were your mother's "accident" is a horrible, erasable feeling. Also, children of teen moms have statistically a harder life. Based on www.naral.com, daughters of teen moms are 22% more likely to become teen moms themselves and sons of teen moms are 13% more likely to go to prison.

Based on the U.S. Census Bureau, a little over 50% of unmarried teen moms go on welfare within the first year of giving birth to the first child. This means that 50% of women are not ready to support, provide, and properly parent for their child.

One source I used was a woman whose job at a local non-profit is to provide help and support for struggling families unwilling to give her employer or name. One common trend she noticed in her job was the association between women surviving on low-income and women with low self-esteem. Women who are most likely to have unprotected sex are those who have low self-esteem. Therefore, they are then more likely to get pregnant. Without the option of an abortion, this baby is typically born into a poverty level household that is not stimulating or adequate. This type of environment is detrimental to a person's development. These children are less likely to do as well in school without this support. 50% of children of teen moms are more likely to repeat a grade.

There is the choice of an adoption open to those women who opt against getting an abortion. Based on statistics from adoption.com, there are over 120,000 adoptions a year made in the United States. Around 40% of Americans, or 81.5 million people, have considered adopting a child. If just one in 500 of these adults adopt, all of the 134,000 children in U.S. foster care waiting for adoption would have permanent families, according to the National Adoption Attitudes Survey.

That means that each year, 14,000 children are left without a parent. If abortion would be illegal, this number would skyrocket. There would be an exponential increase not only in room to house these children, but government social assistance to provide food, school, and support to these children.

Although there are only a small percentage (a little more than 1%) of rape or incest cases where a fetus is actually conceived, a woman would be in a very awkward and difficult situation if she was forced to give birth. Aaron Moss, a senior at Oyster River High School said, "(The woman is) emotionally damaged because she's raising a child she doesn't want... It's just wrong...She can't be like, "excuse me, before you rape me, can you please put on a condom?"

Noronha swore he wouldn't include religion into this argument, but I feel that it must be addressed. If one religion declares that their belief says that abortion is against their ways, they have no right to restrict everyone else. Abortion is a personal choice-just like religion.

I hope I will know that abortion will away be an option. It is nessasary for the United States to keep it's high standards as a country of the free, to value it's citizens ability to choose. We cannot limit people with something as influential as having a baby. It would compleatly distroy the basis that this country is built upon.



Michael Noronha

"Abortion is to fetus as drunk driving is to oncoming traffic." This statement is the name of a controversial Facebook group, to which I naturally belong. I stand behind this statement, because abortion is like Red Asphalt 3 inside your body. Only it is completely intentional. There is nothing clean about it; there is nothing convenient about it. Abortion is nothing less than brutal premeditated murder, and yet it is completely legal. Everyday, thousands of people willingly kill their children, in what should be a gross violation of human rights, and yet this genocide is being ignored.

Abortion is the greatest moral atrocity in the history of the United States. In the past 35 years since the decision of Roe v. Wade it has potentially claimed over 50 million lives, according to nrlc.org. I say potentially, because whether an unborn baby constitutes a life or not has long been disputed. This is the question that has to be resolved, because if they are, America has as much innocent blood on its hands as Hitler and Stalin.

The fact is that there is no scientific proof of where life begins. To say that it begins when a baby takes its first breath is simply wrong. Premature births and scientific observations fully support this. According to Guinness World Records, the most premature survivor of birth was born 128 days early. This person was born barely half way through

the second trimester, and yet today he leads a normal life. As medical technology advances, such survival stories will become increasingly common. If a person who takes heart medication to stay alive is a living human being, surely a baby who could be sustained medically is also alive. A nursing child is just as dependent on its mother to survive as it was in the womb, and yet no one would ever suggest killing the child for financial and emotional expediency.

On the other hand, there is no evidence that life begins at conception. So clearly life begins somewhere between conception and, in the above case, 152 days gestation. But we do not know where that moment lies. How is it just to destroy a fetus if it there is the slightest chance that it could be a living human being? Consider the counter argument that has been so adamantly made.

Supposedly a woman deserves the choice to kill her baby, because it is her life and her

body. If the baby is alive, it is not her body. Should someone be permitted to abort a baby for financial expediency? A human life does not have a monetary value. This is a poor excuse, because financial need is relative. According to abortionno.org, 51.3% of abortions occur when the individual earns over \$30,000 of income. This is not the poverty threshold, but rather a reasonable blue collar wage for a young person.

There is no reason the mother cannot put the baby up for adoption. Adoption is a wonderful system. Women who don't want to keep their child take their problem and turn it into a blessing for another family. As Amaryth said, 40% of American families consider adoption, so there certainly is no lack of potential families. If adoption occurs at a young age the child will grow up in a loving family and lead a normal, successful life. I am certain that you and I can both think of several people who were adopted at birth, and all of them enjoy living. No one has the right to deny them the right to live.

The fact is that if a woman becomes pregnant, she chose to have sex. The biological purpose of sex is to get pregnant. It is simply wrong to possibly destroy a human life because of a bad decision. Certainly tragic cases of rape and incest occur where no choice is made. Life is not fair, but it is even less fair to kill an innocent baby because it would be 'emotionally distressing' for the mother to have it. One life has already been devastated. Why destroy another one? Other exceptions are that birth could kill the mother, or the baby could be born physical defects or even terminally ill. These are more difficult arguments to make, but these cases account for no more than a few percent of all abortions.

What I primarily take issue with are the other approximately 48 million abortions, which were simply meant to 'preserve a right to the pursuit of happiness' for the mother. Our first and foremost constitutional right is that of life. It is why killing a pregnant mother is considered a double homicide. A baby, even in the womb, is a future teacher, a future athlete, a future politician, and as a living human being in these United States ought to be entitled to every fundamental right we hold sacred, and above all the right to live. A person has no right to dictate whether another person lives or dies.

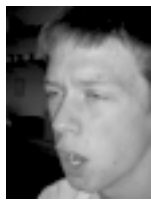


Rising Tensions- courtesy of tbna.blogspot.com

O
P
-
E
D

December 9, 2008

MAST WAY VS. MOHARIMENT:



Matt Degrace

Last issue a member of the Mouth of the River staff decided to write an article about how supposedly mohariment Elementary school is better than Mast Way. This clear misconception was printed without the Mast Way point of view or otherwise known as the true point of view. For those of you, the lucky few, you went to mast Way. Mast Way is and always will be better than Mohariment. Be it from the double shotgun slides we had or the amazing teachers. We had it all, with the May Fair being the epitome of perfection, and for those poor souls who have no idea what that is, you sadly went to Mohariment.

1.The May Fair: The May Fair was and still is an event any Mast Way elementary school student looks forward to. Every May as the name implies there was a fair at the school where each class created its own game for the fair. The whole playground area behind the school was full of games.

Everyone who went to Mast Way remembers this because it was a blast. With each game you played you earned points that would be redeemable towards tons of prizes, the most sought after being a can of silly string. The May fair alone could be the reason why Mast Way is better than Mohariment, and there would be no contest.

2.The Courtyard: The courtyard was a garden that was in the middle of the school and encased by the school. This is something that the people at Mohariment wouldn't know about because you would have had to been in Mast Way to know it was ever there. Classes would go out into the courtyard and read or for projects depending on the class. The Courtyard is full of class time capsules that are scattered across the courtyard area

3.Halloween Party and walk: The Halloween Party was simply awesome. You would go to the school at night, in your Halloween costume! You would go through a haunted walkway through part of the school and through the courtyard (another reason why the courtyard made Mast Way better). The courtyard was full of decorations and a fog machine, which was really cool to seven and eight year olds. The walk was full of people hidden throughout it with people jumping out at you. There was also a man in a coffin dressed as a vampire that would scare the kids. I don't know who that guy was but he helped make Mast Way better than Mohariment.

4.Mr. Gobel: Any student that had Mr. Gobel remembers him it is that simple, and to be able to do that you had o be cool. If the people that went to Mohariment thought Mr. Harrington was the "man", Mr. Gobel was Superman. He was the gym teacher for Mast Way and just a really nice guy. To fully appreciate him you have to think like a little kid again. He rode a motorcycle to school; its true many people have motorcycles but how many teachers do? Because he had every student in one of his classes he literally knew everyone. "He was awesome," says Owen Chalmers. "He was a really nice guy and one of the coolest teachers I've had". He would create games on his own for us to play or would listen to us when we wanted to play a certain game. To those Mast way alumni who had Mr. Gobel, they vividly remember him because he was the coolest teacher at Mast Way.

5.Kick Ball court: ok, so technically it was just part of the playground but to anyone who played on it, it was a court. We had it all set up with bases and even a home run line or better known as the woods. Almost everyone or at least every boy who went to mast Way played kickball at least once.

6.The TWO big slides: ok, I acknowledge that Mohariment had a big slide and was probably pretty cool. But there is one thing that Mohariment didn't have, two big slides. There was no real name for these slides at the time but now double shotgun slides sounds fitting. We had one slide that was a smooth ride all the way down kind of like the one at Mohariment, but that's where the similarities ended because we had a second totally different style slide. A wavy slide that had smooth bumps in it to give you a completely different ride than the first slide. Plus the two slides were next to each other so you could race a friend or anyone to the bottom. Could you race someone on a slide at Mohariment, I think not.

7.Animals: It seems that every class at Mast Way had a class pet. Be it the chicks that would hatch in an incubator in your classroom or the class gerbil or hamster. "I remember walking our class Guinea Pig on a leash through the courtyard," says Marie Collins. Mohariment may have had class pets but not to the extent of Mast Way. Also we had the occasional escaped pet; this would lead to gerbil sightings and hamster sightings across the school. Did Mohariment have memo-

rable moments like that? I think not.

8.Events: Nothing can beat the amount of memorable events that happened at Mast Way even in the short time I was there. At Mast Way we had to stay indoors one day during recess because there were Moose seen near the playground, if you were in the school at the time you remembered this. Another event was when some kids got lost in the woods cross country skiing in gym class. They were found thankfully but will go down as an event people that went to Mast Way won't forget and those who got lost will not live down. The door locks were something of an annoyance because of the fact you had to have a teacher type in the number combination to get in. but what if you knew the code, that was the case at Mast Way where we were able to learn the pass code and gain entry into the school any time we wanted until they eventually changed ending or spree of unhindered entrance into the school.

9.Movies: Whenever it rained outside in the middle school we would have to sit in the cafeteria or go to the gym and play pig, but what about Mast Way you may ask? What did they do? Well we watched movies. That's right we would go to one of the wings or the music room and watch movies. When it rained we turned lemons into lemonade. That simple.

10.Legacy: Mohariment has not been around long enough say anything about Mast Way. Mast Way is an Upperclassmen while Mohariment is but a lowly freshmen. You have to earn a spot before you can start to argue against others. Mast Way is one of those schools where you can be proud of. Face it the few, the proud, the Mast Way alumni are better and we know it.



WHAT THE SWEAR?



Amaryth Gass

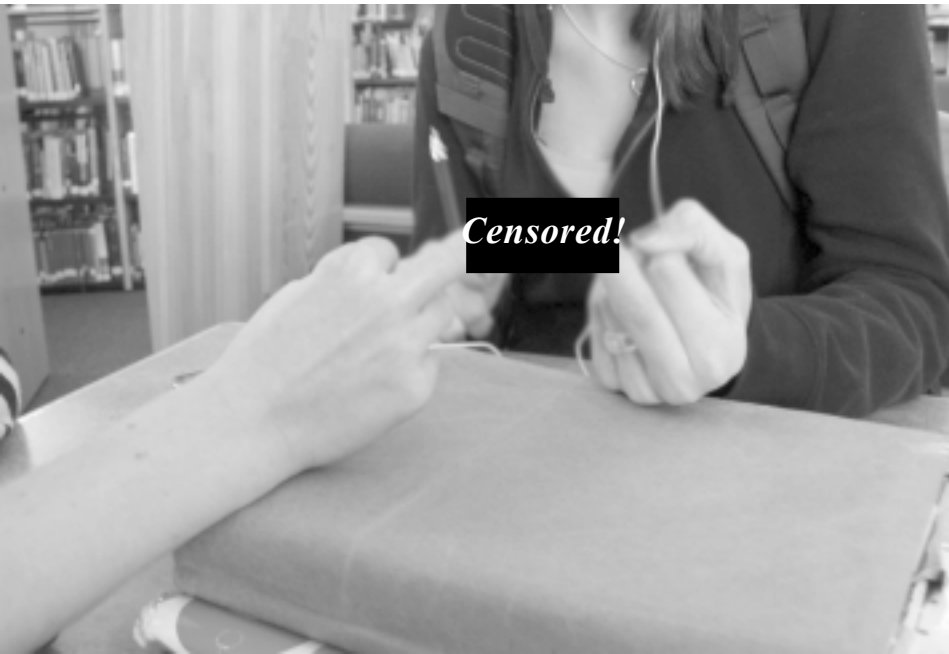
"WHAT THE F*&\$!" This is a common exclamation of any high school student as they get a bad grade on a math test. It's everywhere-movies, books, advertisements. Foul-language is as much of our culture as the media's influence.

But what is swearing? Is it necessary? Where does it come from? Senior Matt Carter ponders these questions. "How about culture? Society turns specific words into taboo..."

In public places, swearing is censored. People can feel offended if they hear or are in the presence of someone who uses "inappropriate language." And Carter says, "I don't think any words are actually offensive, what does it even mean to "take offense"? I've never understood what people mean when they say that?"

Specifically in school, student's vocabulary is limited. I've heard of numerous detentions given out because students have used "foul" language during class.

Personally, I believe that swearing has everything to do with context. People need to be aware and realize the age, maturity level, and situation they are in, and then adapt their language. No, dropping the f-bomb at your young sibling's birthday party is not okay.



Two anonymous high school students flip the author off

WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...

Swearing Stories from the Oyster River Community

Ella Nimmo-

"On the bus, in elementary school, my friend Kate told me this really bad word you can say when you're mad... and then later when I was in this big fight with my dad, and I just yelled f&%@ really really loud-not at anyone, but I just thought it was something you said when you were pissed off..."

Aillinn Conners-

"My dad would swear.. like say f%\$@, s@\$%, damn... I ended up marching around in my bunny pajamas copying him."

Michael Noronah-

"I told my mom to "shut her mouth" and I got one heck of a beating."

Tess Nicholson-

"My mom got pulled over over for running a red light. I was sitting in the back seat and when my mom was explaining that she thought it was a yellow light, I chimed in "green stands for go, yellow stands for s*&#"... and she ended up getting a ticket..."

Mrs. Rosi-

"My younger brother told me that the middle finger meant "I love you." So I went up to my mom and flipped her off..."

Carter also says, "Yea, I think (swearing) should be allowed in school. When it becomes a problem, it's an issue because people are over-using it. People use it because they can - not because they want to emphasize a point or feeling....every other word is f-this, f-that..."

Carter adds, "Certain words can stand for certain connotations and they can have different meaning for different people, therefore, specific words can be offensive for different people."

Karissa Layden goes on to explain the importance and influence swearing has on our society. "It emphasizes feelings or emotions. There's a huge difference between "that hurts" and "that f---ing hurts"..."

Donovan Kelly adds that swearing is "part of the English vocabulary" and it's "a great way to show expression."

But are there any swears that should not be allowed? Words whose meanings are just too negative and discriminating?"In the most direct sense no, there are no words that should never be said," explains Carter. "If it's a word, it's a word and it can be used in language and conversation."

Kelly disagreed. "If people are saying the something like the c word, they should not be allowed to..." Kelly later explained both words victimized one gender (women). As a female, I have never specifically felt threatened or insulted when a person has used either of these words in a conversation, but they have never used in an attacking, abusive sense. But there is a point beyond something that Freedom of Speech can protect. Swearing that is used to single out a person in a specific group is not only hurtful but discriminatory.

So next time you feel the need to swear, look around you and soak in the surroundings. Read the situation and realize whether or not it would offend or discriminate anyone who would hear you.

SEND US LETTERS!

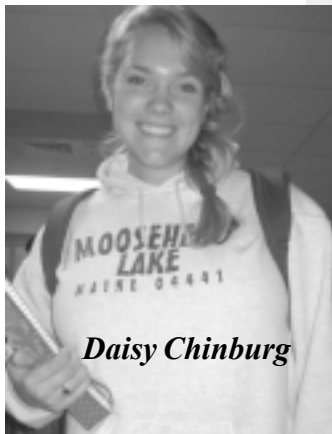
Are you angry about something said in this issue? Do you want to call one of our writers a really bad name? Then send a letter to the editors! We don't print anonymous letters or ones that use bad language. But if you want to send us your opinion, then do so! We read every single one. So don't be afraid!

Give your letter to one of our writers or stop by Room C-125!

December 9, 2008

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CAPTAIN?

S
P
O
R
T
S



Daisy Chinburg



Ben Rollins



Jean-Francis Benoit



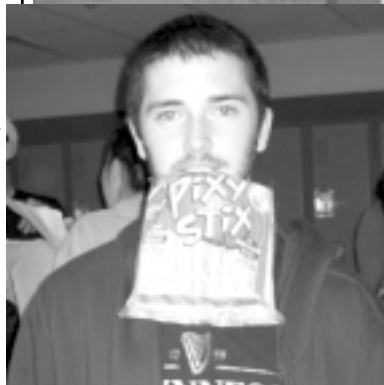
Bev Cole



Aaron Moss



Joe Rankin



Tommy Lynch



*Zoey
Froelking*



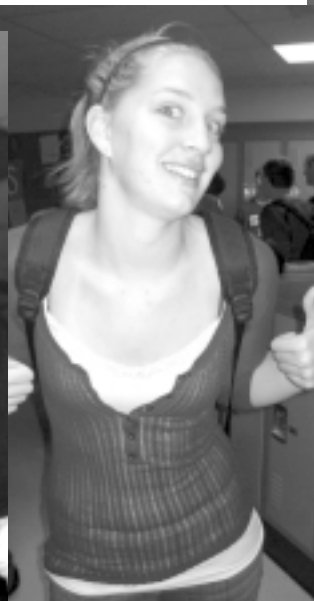
*Amaryth
Gass*



Sarah Anderson



Ricky Hoyt



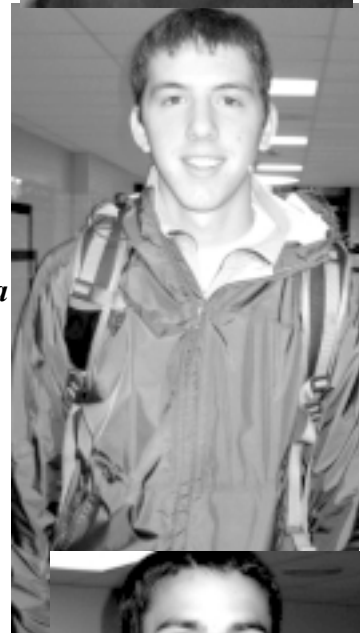
Jilliane Friel



Bridget Hart



*Rob
Lane*



*David
Mistretta*



*Michael
Noronha*

Has a tree holding up their house
Has 8 siblings
Owns 60 plus TV shows on DVD
Loves Pixy Sticks
Eats Honey Comb for breakfast
Actually a Robot
Some people call him a "house of pain"
Can run a 4:20 mile
Stole their mothers scarf
Wants to go to college to become a flame thrower
Can make herself have a lazy eye
Was on Junior Olympic Field Hockey team
Likes 8th graders
Had an interesting experience with the Mascenic team
Really Really Really good looking
Works at Toys R' Us
Doesn't like Olives
Is an Aunt

EXOTIC SPORTS



Marie Collins

"Its fun and you shoot things at each other," Hannigan clarified. "If there isn't anyone to play with you can just go into the woods and shoot squirrels!" What is Pat Hannigan talking about? Some, horrific new teenage activity? No. It's one of the many alternative sports that students at Oyster River High School are participating in.



Laura Gallant and Dahlia Sawtelle spar off.

Senior Pat Hannigan is an avid Airsoft participant, a game similar to paintball, except the paint balls are replaced by BB's. Many people know Karate as only a way to "fight". When Karate is mentioned most students picture a muscular Asian with his shirt off, kicking and jumping in fury. How do you think this man got in such good shape though? Karate is actually an excellent way to get some exercise while learning to defend oneself. "Should I be forced to defend myself, my principles, or my honor, should it be a matter of life or death, of right or wrong, then here are my weapons...My empty hands," said Ed Parker, a martial arts expert, clarifying the philosophy of karate. Unknown to the majority of the student body, ORHS houses three black belts in Isshin-Ryu

karate. Seniors Laura Gallant, Dahlia Sawtelle, and Keaton Donovan all attend karate classes twice a week at the Quest Martial Arts Academy in Barrington NH. "It's really intense, and takes a lot of dedication," explained Sawtelle.

To explore what a Karate class would be like, I traveled to the Quest Martial Arts studio in Barrington, which is located in the strip mall next to the Barrington Spinelli Cinema. The class involved basic athletic conditioning, and was very physical. The students spent an hour practicing their form and learning new ways to protect themselves against attacks. Every activity the students took part in



Airsoft players geared up and ready to go (courtesy google images)

was physical in one way or another. Within ten minutes every student was breathing heavily, and had broken a sweat. The class was serious, but somehow managed to stay fun. The students, ranging in ages from 17 to 50, seemed to be able to smile and laugh through the entire lesson on how to project their opponent onto



Horse racing courtesy of google images

the ground and underneath themselves. Not everyone considers riding horses to be a sport, but riders who participate in races would disagree. Senior Lucy Bix and Junior Mia Griswald are both avid riders. Lana Ciali, a former rider, explained that riding does keep you in physical shape. "People who don't ride don't understand, but it takes a lot of leg strength to ride correctly," she explained. People who have ridden can surely attest to this statement. In an attempt to get a feel for the physical affects of riding horses I went for a "gallop" on one of her easier

to ride horses. After spending about an hour of trying to get this "well behaved" horse to just turn the right way, gosh darn it I began to understand the skills it takes to race horses. The proof of a workout was in the stiff sore legs I woke up with the morning after. Walking up stairs was quite painful, and I found myself nearing tears every time I had a class on the second floor. ORHS houses a swimming and diving team, but there are several water sports that are not offered to the student body. Senior Maggie Salmon has been on a synchronized swimming team for the last seven years. She swims for a private team that practices in the pools of one of the more wealthy members. "Practicing is so cool," Salmon gushed "There's a whole team of us...it's really fun." Synchronized swimming is "like a mixture between ballet and gymnastics," Salmon explained. "We work on strengthening because it takes a lot of power to be able to propel yourself into the different positions, and we work a lot on technique." Salmon continued to explain that a lot of the "moves" in synchronized swimming are very complicated and take a lot of practice. Unfortunately I was unable to view a synchronized swimming practice, but watching a few YouTube videos of Beijing this past summer, I felt that my abilities in the water are pretty minimal. A back flip after being propelled from the water by the rest of the team was a lesser of the feats the USA team completed.



Russia's Synchronized swim team (photo courtesy of google images)

December 9, 2008



Hannah Allen

BREAKING NEW GROUNDS

"I guess my favorite part was watching these two girls try to move the wheel barrow up a hill," Patrick Murphy a math teacher at Oyster River explains.

Sunday, November 23rd a group of students, teachers and parents gathered on the fields of Oyster River to make a wheelchair accessible walkway. Oyster River's Athletic Council was in charge of directing this activity and getting the word out to the public.

The fields have always been a hassle to get around on, especially for wheelchairs and people using walkers. When it rains the ground is muddy making it extremely hard to get from one field to another. The walkway will hopefully ease these problems.

A lot of students, parents and even faculty members showed up to spread the stone dust. "Everyone worked together to get the job done," explains Junior Kara Pavlidis. It was a cold day and everyone was bundled up to try to stay warm, but people worked through the cold and were determined to make the improvements.



At least 50 students gathered on the school fields on a cold Sunday. This is just a small group of girls bundled up working hard at getting the job done!



Robert Heuchling driving the tractor filled with stone dust, making quicker trips than those with wheel barrows.



Adam Goodwin helping unload stone dust onto the path. The Gator was a quick way to get the stone dust from one location to the next. And Goodwin was one of the lucky people who got to drive it!



Jamie Wilkinson making one of many trips with a wheel barrow filled of stone dust to the walkway. People had to make many trips to get all the stone dust to the pathway



Patrick Murphy shoveling away at a pile of stone dust that just didn't seem to get any smaller.



Kara Pavlidis raking through the stone dust. She is one of many soccer players who showed up to help with the walkway. Pavlidis is happy that wheelchairs will be able to get to the soccer fields now.



Students, parents and faculty working together to get the walkway done. Everyone worked hard together, raking away at the piles of stone dust brought to them in wheelbarrows.



Rhys Huntly standing on top of a mound of dirt, excited that the job is almost done and her hard work is going to pay off!



Part of the walkway that everyone worked together on! The walkway is finished and it's all thanks to the hard work from the students, parents and faculty! Thanks everyone!

TEACHER-ATHLETES...?



Marie Collins

"Smart" is the most commonly used word when students are asked to describe teachers, but athletic? Not exactly what comes to mind when you see them sitting at their desks typing away at the computer. Despite what you may think a large number of teachers actually participate in sports. From mountain climbing, to Ironman's, the variety of sports they participate in stretch across a large pallet.

In the spring and fall sometimes you may notice a small group of teachers playing tennis by the school. This group includes music teacher Marc LaForce, English teacher Martin Brewer, biology teacher John Bromley, physics teacher Laura Parsons, and substitute coordinator Robert Heuchling. "It's a good way to get out and get some



Courtesy Google Images

exercise," claimed LaForce, who has been playing tennis for 25 years. "I just kind of picked it up," he said, while explaining that he had stopped playing after having children.

Mr. Heuchling had the idea of playing with

the other teachers, and brought them all together. "A couple of teachers had asked me to play after school...I said 'I wonder if there will be a number of teachers who would want to play?'" said Huechling. "They were really excited...it's a good way to get some exercise but it's really a social thing too," he explained.



Tuckerman's ravine: Mt. Washington

New Hampshire residents have the unique opportunity of keeping in shape by hiking some of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the country. A two hour drive up north will offer you over 180 trails to hike on, and dozens of beautiful views. Math teacher Patrick Murphy and social studies teacher Lou Mroz are avid hikers. Mroz claims he really got involved in hiking in 1996. "When my kids were older for some reason they didn't want to

hang out anymore...I figured it's either bowling or going to the mountains." Mroz tries to hike at least once every week. He has climbed Mt. Chocorua, 3,500 ft, 91 times, and Mt. Washington, 6,288 ft, 89 times. He hopes to succeed in summitting Mt. Washington 11 more times in the next two years, bringing his total summits to 100.

Some athletes enjoy swimming, some enjoy biking, some enjoy running, and a very select few enjoy doing all three. An even smaller group of these people enjoy doing ridiculously long distances of all of them in a row. Math teacher Bill Reeves has swum 2.5 miles, biked 112 miles, and immediately



Reeves Runs a Triathlon (courtesy of The Sun newspaper, Lowell , Massachusetts)



after run a marathon, 9 times. An Ironman is an extreme version of a triathlon. It is one of the most grueling and intense physical experience a person can put themselves through. "There's a lot of training," Reeves explained, whose fastest total time is 9 hours, 35 minutes and 18 seconds. This time brought him to 103rd place at the 2001 Ironman World Championships in Hawaii.

"It's so intense that he can even do an Ironman. Completing one in itself is more than I could ever hope to do," said Oyster River's top runner Ricky Hoyt.

Many Oyster River students enjoy playing frisbee. It is not an uncommon sight to look out of a window of the High School in the spring and see a few students playing small games of Ultimate



Mrs. Yatsevitch joins a group of freshmen for a game of frisbee

Frisbee. It is also very likely that you might see Mrs. Raiford, Mr. Paradise, or maybe Mrs Yatsevitch playing with these students. Two of these teachers, Pam Raifor and Joe Paradise, play ultimate frisbee competitively outside of school . Raiford plays with a pick-up group and on a team. "I used to play on a tournament team, now just on a summer league," she explained, claiming that she had been playing for 16 years. "My husband, who was not my husband at the time, asked me to play...I thought he was cute," she laughed while recounting the beginnings of her Frisbee Career.

Paradise has only been playing for 5 years, but is on 2 teams, one of which originates in Hawaii, called Ha-Na-Hou (Encore). "There is no such thing as professional Frisbee," he said, and continued to explain that all teams have to be put together by the players. "I'm a soccer player by trade, Frisbee player by choice," he joked.

So if you're still skeptical as to whether or not teachers are able to be athletes talk to one of your teachers and ask. I guarantee you that they have some way of keeping in shape or having fun that involves physical activities. Sports aren't just for kids.

ROLLY CHAIR RALLY!

SIGN UP AROUND THE SCHOOL OR WITH A MOUTH OF THE RIVER STAFF MEMBER FRIDAY JANUARY 23RD



Looking for something to brighten up your midterm week? Mouth of the River has something just for you. All I can say is... "Ladies and gentlemen start your roly chairs!"

Mouth of the River is holding the First Annual Indoor Rolly Chair Race on Friday, January 23rd. So grab your computer chairs and crazy costumes and prepare for a good time. That's right - it's a four person relay race around the school in roly chairs. What could be a better use for a Friday afternoon? Sign up in the hallways or talk to any of the Mouth of the River staffers to sign up a team. There will be regulations on helmets as well as chair inspection. The winning team will receive a wonderful 1st place trophy to be put on display every year around this time. Don't wait until it's too late, sign up today, you won't regret it!

While the race is going on there will also be a bake sale for the hungry racers and spectators as well as front row seats for 1\$ (seating in the back is free). Team signups are 12 dollars per 4 person team. Teachers welcome! The race will be setup in a relay style, where each member of the team must complete 5 laps with a total team distance of 20 laps. There will also be prizes for teams who are creative with uniforms or decorating their chair from home (or a school chair, provided all changes are temporary and do not affect the chair's functionality in anyway). Come to the roly chair race and have the time of your life!



RE-INVENTING
THE MOUNTAIN



Luke Sahagian

Whether it is commuting, lift lines, or ticket costs, skiers everywhere are looking for a cheaper alternative to the ski resort. How can a person get the skiing sensation with out the wallet devastation? Wouldn't it be easier if the mountain came to you? Although

nothing comes without some price, there are some alternatives to paying and waiting. Let me introduce you to the secret world of free skiing.

For the laziest and the craziest there is backyard skiing. Armed with a small hill, some dedication, and some creativity skiing can even be done in your backyard. "It's called a rail jam," Fred Meisner explained. "Just setup a rail or a box, get some snow, a hill or two, and just hit it up." A rail is typically a small diameter metal pipe, however they can have a rectangular sliding surface.

"Yeah I ball" Kyle Libby exclaimed "I just can't wait for snow." A box is basically a rail that is much wider (and is almost always rectangular), usually wide enough for a person to slide down without having to turn 90 degrees. "I love hitting the rails, I'm going to throw 270 pretzels like it's my job this season," Alex Knoll declared. These rail jams can be done year round (that's right even in the summer). Snow in the summer might be unheard of to some, but to the elite it's a walk beside the rink. "We can get snow from pretty much any ice rink that uses a zamboni, usually they don't mind us taking it", Fred Meisner replied. If you have the means, and the skill, setting up a park closer to home could be an option.

Stranded in a snowed in log cabin hundreds of miles from civilization, how could you escape and survive? First locate some cross country skis then strap them on and trek to safety. Even if you're not at risk for freezing to death in the middle of the countryside cross country skiing is still a great way to ski for free. There doesn't even need to be a hill. "I have been cross country skiing since I was 8, and I can't wait to get some sweet skiing this winter," Rob Lane said. The equipment is slightly different from downhill skiing. Some skis have ridges on the bottom (a lot like scales) to help with traction. Or cross country skiers without ridges can apply wax to the bottom of the skis to find that balance between traction and glide. The boots are attached in the toe so that the heel can come up and down to accommodate a faster speed. The poles are also different, instead of a rounded basket typically they have a more triangular shape in order to keep all of the momentum possible going forward. "Cross country skiing is great, you get to explore places some people never get to see and have some great times in the winter," explained Rob Lane.

Cross country skis can provide a great way to climb up hills or even mountains, but what about going back down? Telemark skiing combines the speed and carefully planned turning of down hill with the free heel and hiking aspects of cross country skiing. Although it can be done on a regular ski mountain, climbing up the hill with special alpine touring bindings allows for a person to climb up comfortably and then ski down with regular alpine bindings. Any mountain can work, even a ski resort. You pay to go down the hill not up. If you're ready for a hike, you will never have to pay for another lift ticket. Telemark skiing is usually done down a hill, and instead of making carving turns, the skier must turn almost completely perpen-



Kyle Libby sliding a rail



Preparing for the long hike

dicular to the slope of the mountain and "kneel" down in order to make a turn. "It can be very tricky at first, but after awhile you get the hang of it," Nate Hoff explained. Of the three methods of skiing discussed telemark skiing could be the most convenient because there are switchable telemark and alpine bindings if learning to



Nate Hoff with the first Tele Ski of the year

ski on them with the free heel is not an option. The only problem might be cost.

Even if new equipment isn't an option there is always the option of throwing the skis or snowboard over your shoulders and climbing to the top of the hill. Although not the ideal method of getting up the hill, a trail or path to climb up can help. Another suggestion would be crampons if there is a lot of ice. There are places to ski all around even as close as Wagon Hill, or UNH. The Dimond Library is an infamous ski spot to setup jumps, or just to sled. If one was really desperate there are sandpits and quarries not to far away, but the skis would degrade really fast if there was slightly too little snow. Also there is Beach Hill (off of Beach Hill road) which used to be a small skiing place, although it is very overgrown and does have a fence that

could get in the way. With a longer drive, there are more possibilities of mountains and spots to ski such as Tuckerman's Ravine.

New Hampshire is blessed with plenty of mountains and therefore opportunities to explore, and then slide down. The best ski trail of your life might be in your backyard, and the only thing stopping anyone is the will to find it.



Kai Beaton Treking with his Skis



Robert Perkins grabbing the nose

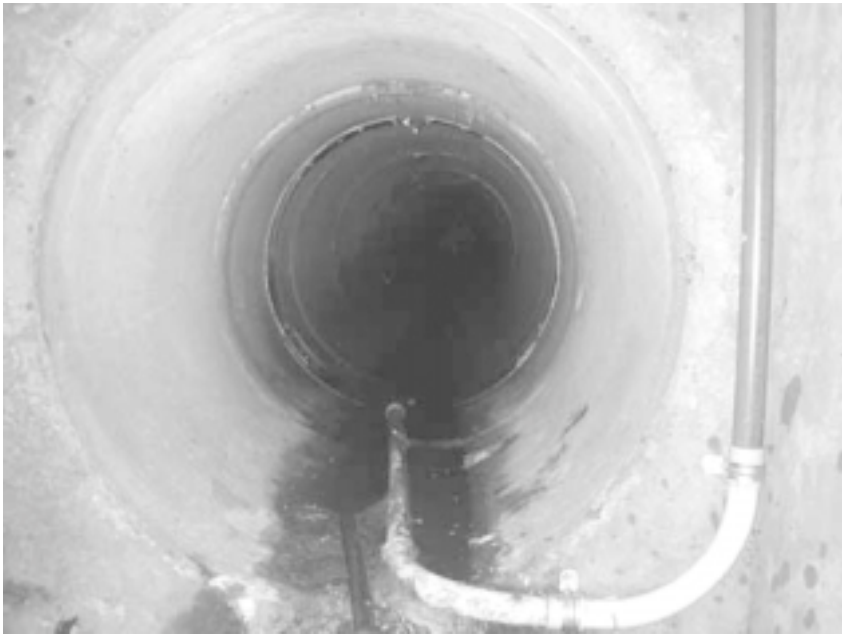
SKIING THE DREAM



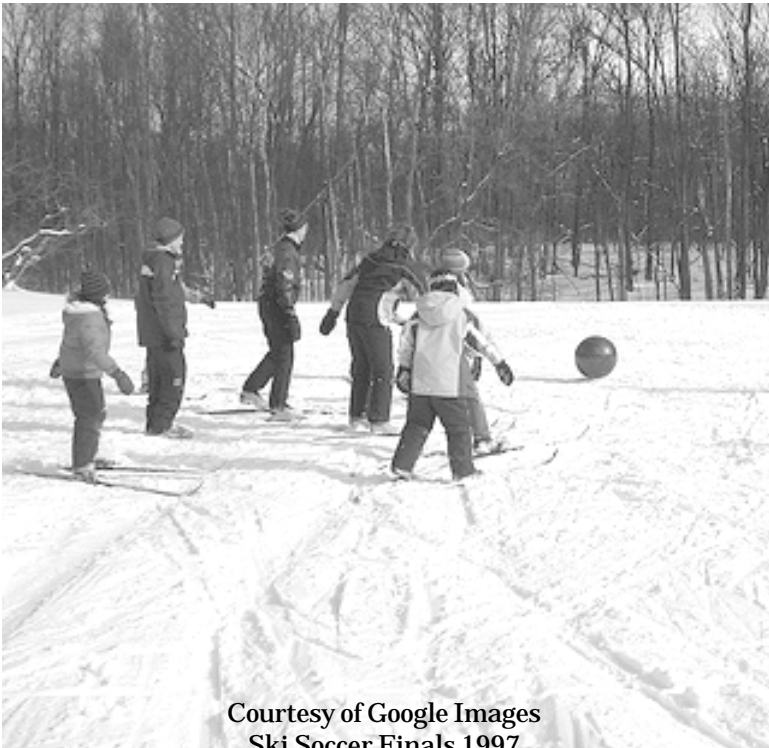
Luke Sahagian

What about the secret ski and sledding spots? That's right I am talking about the secret underground ice races. When I say underground, I mean underground. Although it's never been proven, (or realistically possible) the sewer system of our town could be the sight of the secret illegal ice racing. Although no living sources could confirm this preposterous hypothesis, upon scanning the local water drains entrances and exits we found variously sized garden gnomes, pointed sticks, and abandoned bridges. Unfortunately the first rule about ice racing prevents me from saying anymore on this topic.

Alleged Site of 1st National Underground Ice Race
Courtesy of Google Images



Everyone has heard of indoor soccer, but what about winter soccer? Although it is a dying art, ski soccer or winter soccer still exists in some parts of our lovely community. The rules are very similar to that of soccer, accept the cleats are replaced with skies (typically cross country but alpine is not unheard of). The official poles are supposed to be non-metal, and have a specific 3 ¾" basket lengths and width, but since the professional league was dissolved long ago these regulations are rarely followed. There are 10 players on a team. There are three attacking players and three defending players on opposite sides of the field. These six players must stay on their side of the field throughout the entire match. In addition there are three all around players who can be on either side of the field at any given time. Finally there is one goalie who his hands or poles (whichever is more comfortable for the goalie). A game is started with the ball in the middle where it must be hit backwards though the legs of the middle all around player to one of the defenders. This is done after every goal that is scored. The game is run



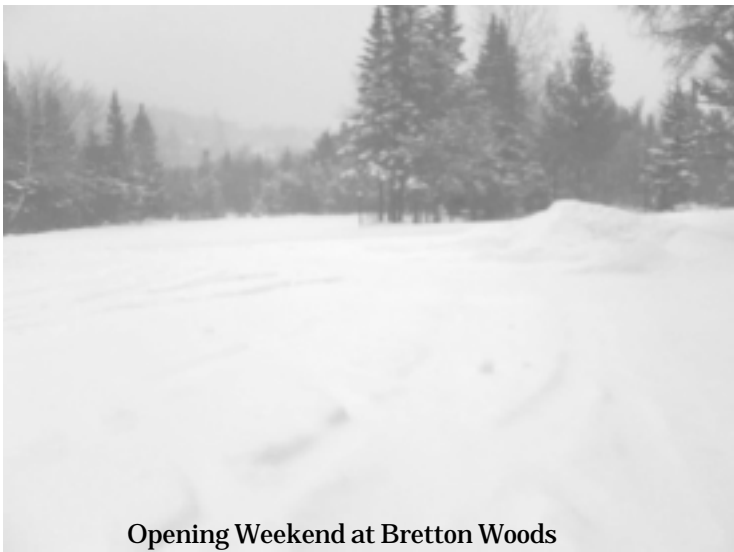
Courtesy of Google Images
Ski Soccer Finals 1997

in two halves of 34 minutes 30 seconds. Although rarely do modern day games last more than 20 minutes they are a great way to hangout in the winter.

Although some of the other activities previously discussed might be difficult to partake in, sand skiing does actually exist. I would recommend not using any skis you would wish to ever use again in such a fashion however. If you are looking for some good old fashioned skiing in the summer with the probability of getting injured slightly higher than normal sand skiing could be for you. The only problem is the need for a very steep and finely grained sandy slope. A dessert would be ideal, because the sand will be much drier. The drier sand in theory would work better because it allows the skier to turn dig the edges of the skis in and have some control as to the descent. A quarry or sand pit could possibly work but if it has rained a lot the sand could form one solid mass which would not make it very easy or possible to turn and therefore would make it very easy to get hurt. Overall I would not recommend this style of skiing, or at least to be the one who goes first.



Sand Skiing
Courtesy of Google Images



Opening Weekend at Bretton Woods



Hannah Allen

Athletics are an enormous element of the Oyster River community. "Bobcat Pride" is seen everywhere in the district on shirts, bracelets, gyms, hallways and so much more. Oyster River has won championship titles in various sports and is constantly looked at as a school to beat. But there is a different side of Oyster River sports that don't involve spectators or being athletic. Fantasy sports.

Fantasy sports have been around since the early 90's, and since then it has grown to be a past-time for so many sports fans. Yahoo started this trend allowing sports fanatics to pick their favorite professional players from sports and put them on a "team". If the players on your fantasy team(s) do well in their games, your team gets points. Depending on how you set it up,



Courtesy of Yahoo.com

you can win based on how many points you get in a week's time, or however many points you have in a whole season.

It's not just the students that are constantly checking the computers at school to see the status of their team, faculty members have also been drawn into the phenomenon of fantasy sports. Mike Troy, Industrial Arts teacher, is one of the many faculty members who makes a fantasy team at the beginning of a season, and follows the success of his team members throughout the season. Troy doesn't have a football team, a hockey team or even a baseball team. Instead Troy is in charge of his very own NASCAR team. "Actually Dave Evans got a group of us into it last year," Troy explains. "I just do it for fun; I don't really fantasize about being a NASCAR driver." Troy isn't as obsessed with his sports team as other faculty members at the school. "I check it two or three times a week, before or after school," Troy explains.

Although he doesn't check his NASCAR team during school because he says it's an "illegal move", he does discuss his team and other NASCAR drivers with many of his students. "Yeah I talk about it with all the NASCAR fans, Josh Perkins, John

"I just do it for fun; I don't really fantasize about being a NASCAR driver."
-Mike Troy

SPORTS "FAN" TASY

Wetherbee, Mike Casterton and Chandler Hull." Troy is excited because his favorite driver, number 48 Jimmy Johnson, is trying to win for his third year in a row.



Peterson checking his fantasy sports teams with his students

While some teachers like Troy don't check their fantasy sports at school, other teachers are so absorbed in their teams that they have to check during the school day. John Peterson, a special ed aide here at Oyster River, admits to checking his sports status during the school day, and even getting caught by some students. He also sadly admits to checking his fantasy sports teams three or four times a day. "I check injuries, news and if my players are starting or not," says Peterson.

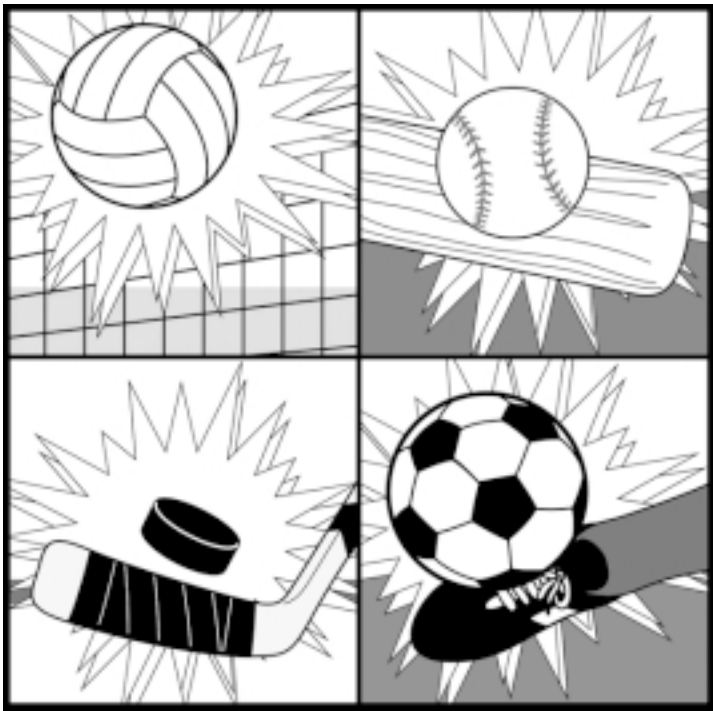
Peterson has stayed a loyal member of the fantasy sports phenomenon for about five years. "It's a competition," Peterson explains. "I like it; it keeps me updated on sports." Although

Peterson says he doesn't compete with any students at Oyster River, he does compete with Terrill Covey, English intern at the school. "We were in a league together. He'd send me e-mails saying that he would beat me that week," Peterson explains.

Fantasy sports keep sports fanatics updated on all professional sports teams, "I follow the whole sport, not just certain teams," explains Covey. Covey is the holder for a

total of 17 fantasy sports teams, 11 football, 4 hockey and 2 basketball. During the school day Covey checks the updates of his sports for about 30 minutes, but throughout a whole day it adds up to about two hours. Sundays are dedicated to watching football and checking updates.

So it's clear that the fun experience of a competition makes fantasy sports so appealing. People are able to catch up on professional sports if they aren't always free to watch the game, race or match and they are able to feel the experience of winning, just by picking the right people for their team. Some people have fantasy sports teams to bet on in hopes to win money, but many just participate in the phenomenon because it simply makes them happy.



Courtesy of Google Images



Luke Sahagian

YEAH WE
BALL

Athletes and fans alike might be surprised when they make way for the courts because there are new coaches in town. Oyster River is known for having a good team, and it will be interesting to see how things play out this year.

There are a lot of new faces entering the courts at Oyster River. First of all the athletic department is looking for a new mascot. That's right Oyster River wants you to enlist into the realm of mascots. To qualify for this position a person must have very special characteristics. First, has to fit in the suit. Second must be able to inspire clapping cheering and general wellbeing for a group of students excited about a game. Third must not be afraid of hugging random people and having a lot of fun. If anyone is interested in this position see Mr. Maynard or anyone from the Athletic department. We are counting on you!

Mr. Michell is the new Varsity head coach. He is excited to coach and "can't wait," for the season to start. Only time will tell what challenges the team will face this year, but Coach Michell plans to "build on what Maynard has done, and have fun." Along with Coach Michell there is Mr. Cangello the new JV Coach. He believes in conditioning, discipline, and of course fun. Finally the reserve coach Covey, who is very eager to start the season. You will be seeing more of these three throughout the year. Good Luck Basketball!

The basketball season should be exciting this year, make sure you the reader support the winter sports teams. See you in the bleachers.



INJURIES OF THE MONTH



Marie Collins

NOAH BRICKNER-WOOD

What's wrong with you?
I got a cut on the back of my skull

How did it happen?
In a two vs. one s==tick war. I turned around for protection and I just got nailed in the back of the head.

How long are you out for?
It happened on Veterans' day... and I get the staples out today (11/19)

What's next?
I got six staples in my head, and they come out the 19th, and then it's pretty much done. I had to have them in for over a week, and I had to clean it a lot.

How much did it hurt?
At first probably a five, but when I got home it was somewhere around an eight

Did you cry?
No...I just kind of went Dang it

How has the injury affected your love life?
You should ask the ladies



Six staples in Noah's Head

GRAHAM PHELPS

What's wrong with you?
I broke my tibia with two minutes left in the semi-final soccer game

How did it happen?
My leg got caught in-between the ball and another player's leg while going for a 50-50 ball and my tibia snapped

How long are you out for?
Hopefully in three months I can run, I wanna be ready for Lacrosse season

What's next?
I have to get physical therapy for a while.

How much did it hurt?
It only really hurt for the first ten seconds. I didn't think that it was broken, I thought it was just a bruise.

Did you cry?
I woke up the next morning in tears 'cause the pain was just too much

How has the injury affected your love life?
The ladies give me sympathy and they like to push around my wheelchair



RUN FOR A CAUSE

Fluorescent rain jackets and long spandex were the outfits of choice among the people collectively making their way to the starting line. Mingling groups of students, teachers, parents and community members, joined to form one group behind the orange spray paint line marking the starting point. On the loud speaker, Kylee Drugan-Eppich welcomed everyone. Soon enough, a race was started, on this drizzly Saturday morning in mid November.



Drugan-Eppich, a 17 year old high school junior from ORHS planned this run for a cause. The Run for Body Peace and Love, as Drugan-Eppich is calling it, is a 5K and it followed the Bobcat Invitational course, used by the Oyster River cross country team. The participation cost was \$5 and 100% of the proceeds went to the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA).

This issue hits close to home for Drugan-Eppich, who struggled with anorexia and bulimia in the past. "It is important to me to make sure other kids, teenagers, and adults don't have to go through what I did," said Drugan-Eppich in a facebook message. In planning this run, Drugan-Eppich feels that she will be able to raise the awareness in the Durham community and reach out to others. "I guarantee there are kids in high schools around the country and world who think they're the only ones with this problem. What I want to let them know is that they are not alone and they don't have to live that way."

Two weeks prior to the event, the hype was building at ORHS. Rachel Downs, 18, ORHS senior commented, "I think it is a really unique way to build the community. There are all kinds of community events, but (there) aren't many available to the entire community." Downs continued, "There are different levels of participation," speaking of volunteering, running, being a spectator or donator. Bridget Burns, 17, an ORHS high school senior planned on running at the event. Currently, "I am running alone, but I anticipate

many of my friends running as well." Burn's peer, Jon Owens, 17 planned on running too. "Both my family and a lot of my friends are running." He enthusiastically added, "Everyone should do it, there is really no reason not to."

This event has involved many hours of planning and publishing, and Drugan-Eppich has pretty much taken on the entire event single handedly. Drugan-Eppich named the ORHS administrators and her Cross Country coaches as helpful contributors.

Sara Wotton, the ORHS assistant principal was able to assist with flyers, waivers, liability and registration forms. She also helped get permission for Drugan-Eppich to use the ORHS facility. But, Wotton gave Drugan-Eppich all the credit. "She's been doing everything." Pamela Carr, a computer teacher at ORHS agreed, "Kylee's doing everything for it." Carr explained that Kylee "Came to (myself and Celeste Best) to rally some National Honors Society members" to volunteer. Carr and Best are the ORHS NHS advisors.

Before the run started, an executive decision was made that the Bobcat invitational course had to be altered for safety precautions. Greg Gephart, the ORHS Boys Cross Country coach explained the reasons behind the course being adjusted. "Because of conditions, we had to eliminate part of the trail." The part of the course which was removed was very slippery due to the rain and would not be safe for the runners. The problem was easily fixed; Gephart measured another distance, equal in length that would substitute. The run began on time and went smoothly.

Oyster River's own Ricky Hoyt was the winner of the race with a time of 17 minutes and 58 seconds. Hoyt was closely followed by Stephen Willson who came in second. The run was a success and \$896.25 was raised which will be contributed to the NEDA.

Throughout the day, family members of Drugan-Eppich were present to support her. Tim Drugan-Eppich, her younger brother was excited about his role as the last runner. "I'm running sweep-I make sure no one dies on the course," quickly correcting himself, I'm making sure "everyone finishes the race," he added with a smile.



Following the race, volunteers and participants gathered in the high school to enjoy refreshments and converse. A volunteer, Zoey Frolking, 17 and a teammate of Drugan-Eppich's said, "She is doing something she loves, to support a cause that needs a lot of attention and this is a good way to get attention to the cause, plus it (was) really fun." In a facebook message, Drugan-Eppich expressed, "I am so excited about this, because I have wanted to do something more than just recover from my own eating disorders. I want to help others recover, and stop the problem before it happens."





Hannah Allen

SCHOOL BOARD TURN AROUND

After many School Board meetings, the Board has finally realized that Oyster River would suffer without our Athletic Director, Don Maynard.

Last June Maynard was informed that he would not be getting a new contract in the spring of 2009, leaving him to find a new job. This caused so much chaos in the district; more people started attending School Board meetings showing support for Maynard. Pins were worn throughout the district saying "Support Our AD, Don Maynard" in hope that the Board would realize that they had made a big mistake.

The district's long fight with the Board is finally over; Maynard received a one sentence letter telling him that come spring, he would be getting a contract. "I believe the intent is to offer me a contract in the spring," Maynard explains. "I'm not sure what the real cost will be, am I gonna be able to do my job and not be worried?" As of now everyone is expecting him to get a contract in April, students and faculty are happy, and hoping that the Board will stick to their decision.

Art teacher Tim Lawrence is thrilled about the Board changing their minds, "I couldn't imagine the place without him," he explains. Although he is happy with the Board's decision he is still upset with them. "It doesn't mean that we trust the School Board any more than before, it's just nice to see them finally do the right thing," Lawrence believes the Board was wrong from the beginning, but is happy with the final outcome of the situation.

Junior basketball player Jake Finacchiaro is one of the many students who is glad to hear Maynard will be receiving a contract this spring. "I think it's the right thing to do, there was no reason for what they did in the first place," Finacchiaro explains.

"My wife's reaction was similar to mine," Maynard says. "My kids were excited." Maynard is grateful for what the district has done for him, "All the time and energy paid off. I couldn't be more appreciative," Maynard explains. "Knowing that support now, I can't imagine leaving," Maynard adds.

As of now, the community and the Maynard family are expecting that Maynard will be receiving his contract this April when the district contracts come out. The public has shown a great amount of support towards Maynard, and people are happy that their efforts have helped.

S
P
O
R
T
S

ANSWERS TO “HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR CAPTAIN?”



Marie Collins

- Amaryth Gass (girls' soccer) - Has a tree holding up their house
- Bev Cole (girls' soccer) - Has 8 siblings
- Jilliane Friel (girls' soccer) - Owns 60 plus TV shows on DVD
- Tommy Lynch (boys' soccer) - Loves Pixy Sticks
- Ben Rollins (boys' soccer)- Eats Honey Comb for breakfast
- Michael Noronha (boys' cross country)- Actually a Robot
- Rob Lane (boys' cross country) - Some people call them a "house of pain"
- Ricky Hoyt (boys' cross country) - Can run a 4:20 mile
- David Mistretta(boys' cross country) - Stole their mothers scarf
- Zoey Frolking (girls' cross country) - Wants to go to college to become a flame thrower
- Daisy Chinburg (girls' field hockey) - Can make herself have a lazy eye
- Bridget Hart (girls' volleyball)- Likes 8th graders
- Jon Owens (boys' volleyball)- Had an interesting experience with the Mascenic team
- Jean-Fi Benoit (golf team)- Really Really Really good looking
- Joe Rankin (boys' volleyball) - Works at Toys R' Us
- Aaron Moss (boys' volleyball)- Doesn't like Olives
- Sarah Anderson (cross country)- Is an Aunt

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SPORTS!

Next Friday , December 19th, travel to Northwood to support our Boys Basketball team as they play, and defeat, rival COE BROWN (JV-5:30 Varsity-7:00)...OR stay in Durham to cheer on the girls Basketball Team who will also be victorious against Coe-Brown (JV-5:30 Varsity-7:00).

Next Monday, December 15th, Boys Varsity and JV Hockey will be playing Salem High School at the Whitmore Center (JV-6:30 Varsity:8:30)

Next Satuday, December 20th, hit up the Field House. Starting at nine AM the track team will be competing in their first meet at the “Paul Sweet Oval” Indoor Track. Then beginning at Noon the Swim Team will be competing in their second meet against Milford and Keene on the other side of the Field House.

